

# Jesus welcomes children

How many children can you see?



## Jesus welcomes you!

Draw yourself with Jesus.



**Today's aim is to enjoy Jesus' welcome.**  
Luke 18:15-17

Point to Jesus in the picture and ask your child to say whether he enjoyed having children around him. See if they can find six children in the picture. Ask what these children might have felt when they were allowed to come to Jesus. Invite the children to draw a picture of themselves in the space provided, reminding them that Jesus welcomes them too.

Children feel the welcome of Jesus when they are welcomed warmly and consistently by the adults around them. In this Bible story, it was adults who tried to keep the children from Jesus. But Jesus insisted they were not kept away. As adults who care for children, we can follow Jesus best by being their advocates, making sure that they always receive a smile, a word of encouragement and a welcome.

This story is really important for children's spiritual growth, but it needs to be grounded in the way they receive a welcome within the family and the wider community. As they learn that they are valued within the family, the church and in the wider community, they learn – through these experiences – that they are valued by Jesus. What can you do this week to give your child such an experience?

My name .....



This story is from the **The Big Bible Storybook.**

## Jesus and the children

"We're going to see Jesus!" the children were calling to everyone they saw. "We're going to see Jesus!" they told their mums and dads.

"Yes, isn't it exciting?" their parents said. "We're nearly there."

The children raced on, looking forward to seeing Jesus, who was so kind and who told such wonderful stories! But before they could reach Jesus, they met some men who frowned at them. The men shouted to the mums and dads, "Take the children away! Jesus is too busy to see them!"

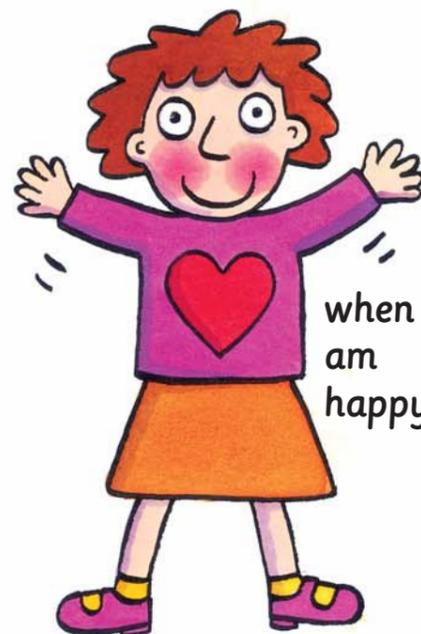
The children stood still. They were very disappointed. But Jesus saw what was happening. He stopped what he was doing. Jesus called to the men, "Don't stop the children. They are very special. I always have time for them."

Then Jesus stretched out his arms and the children ran to him. Jesus prayed for them and talked to them. The children felt happy because Jesus wanted to see them.

Mark 10:13-16



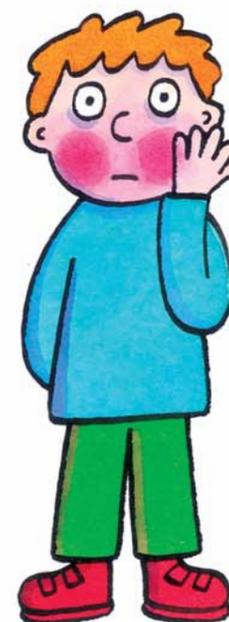
## Jesus welcomes me



when I am happy



when I am sad



when I want to talk to him



when I am excited

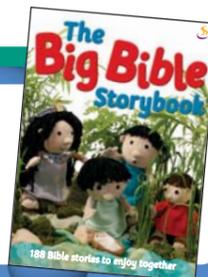


when I am tired

Draw a circle round the way you feel now.



Enjoy this story again in **The Big Bible Storybook**, hardback edition, 256 colour pages, available now from Scripture Union. It is full of great Bible stories retold especially for young children and features all your favourite Bible Friends. [www.scriptureunion.org.uk/light](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/light)



You can also help your child to take their first steps into Bible reading with **Tiddlywinks: My Little Purple Book**.



Look at each one of the pictures on this page, helping the children to identify how each character is feeling. Ask them to say whether they think Jesus would welcome all these children – even those who are not smiling. Help them to see that Jesus welcomes children however they feel. Invite the children to draw a circle around the way they feel now and then to say, "Jesus welcomes me!"

Wondering how to answer the faith questions your child asks? Visit [www.scriptureunion.org.uk/families](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/families) to find out more.