

SPECIAL
SUNDAY



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Children's Message



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

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Adapt this children's message based on passages from Mark 10:13-16 to celebrate World Communion Sunday in your congregation. For a fully integrated service, coordinate the passages with the accompanying children's bulletin, sermon starter, offering talk and liturgy.

You will need:

- Welcome mat or sign with the word "WELCOME" on it
- Globe

LET THE CHILDREN COME

READ:

Mark 10:13-16 CEB

People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, "Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. I assure you that whoever doesn't welcome God's kingdom like a child will never enter it." Then he hugged the children and blessed them.

Ask the children to repeat after you:

"God's kingdom belongs to people like these children."

Ask if anyone has sisters or brothers.

SAY:

I wonder who your favorite sports player, movie star or another famous person is. (Say the name of a celebrity you are a fan of and allow time for the children to name some of their favorites.) Sometimes we might say these famous people are considered "very important people."

Can you imagine how many people are always trying to meet them? It might be hard for them to even walk down the street without attracting a lot of attention. So, they often have people around them to protect them and keep seemingly ordinary people like you and me from bothering them. Because sports players and movie stars need to live their lives too. Right?

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Jesus was preaching and teaching and had become famous. He was a “very important person.” A lot of people wanted to be near him. And some parents wanted their children to know him too. But the disciples wanted to protect Jesus from people whom he didn’t know, especially the children because the disciples thought the energy of the children might bother Jesus.

But Jesus (hold up the welcome sign) said to let the children come. He said that the children were welcome to come to him. They, YOU, are very important people. Children are seen, known and honored by God. Jesus loves you very much and he made it clear that he didn’t want anyone or anything to come between you and him.

Today is World Communion Sunday. (Hold up the globe.) And Jesus’ welcome doesn’t stop with children. In our tradition people of all ages are welcome to receive Holy Communion, remembering the special dinner that Jesus shared with his friends and that Jesus’ love lives on through each one of us.

Later our church will receive an offering to help young leaders around the world. We will offer them our support and prayers to help them grow in Christ’s love while they continue to study and learn.

We remember that Jesus welcomes not only the children in his time and place 2,000 years ago (Point to the Holy Land region on the globe.) But also, he welcomes you and all children around the world to learn about his love and share it with others today. (Put the globe on the welcome mat and spin it.)

Will you pray with me?

Thank you, God, for sending us Jesus, who puts out the welcome mat for each of us. Thank you for each of these children and for the children around the world who represent your love and openness. Help us each to be part of taking care of all young people with ministries that build up your kingdom. Amen.



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