

TEACHER'S NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 13	Jesus Begins His Work
Lesson 2	Jesus Love for Children

AIMS

1. Children will become aware of Jesus' special love for children.
2. They will also learn about a priest's blessing for children.

STEP 1

Remind the children that Jesus came into the world as a baby who grew up as a child in the care of Mary and Joseph. He knew exactly what it was like to be a child: to laugh and play, do chores, love His family and obey His parents. He also knew what it was like to be sad and how it felt to be afraid. Jesus knows that children have a special love for God, and they please Him very much. Today, you will learn about Jesus' special love for children.

STEP 2

Read with the children the special paragraph in the children's pack, emphasised that Jesus liked to tell the children how much their Heavenly Father loved. Ask the children to explain how a father loved his children: he cares for their needs, gives them love, forgives them, encourages them to grow, share their joys and sadness. He listened to the children, and he spends time with them.

STEP 3

Explain that God the Father has given each of the children a father here on earth. Earthly fathers are supposed to be examples of God, the Heavenly Father. They should care for the children and love them. Although they are not perfect, they are a gift from God, and God chose each father for each child.

STEP 4

Remind the children of the last sentence in paragraph three where it tells us how Jesus put his arms around the children and bless them. How much He loved the children! Asked the children how they feel when they receive hugs. Do they feel happy? Safe? Warm? Loved? Jesus gives them such love. He also gives His blessing. A blessing as a sign of love; it is when someone is set apart for God, like when you save your favourite toy or food. Jesus blessed the children because He loves them and once them to be set apart for Him. Read the story of Jesus blessing the children from the children's pack (Mark 10:30-15).

STEP 5

If possible, ask a priest to give the children a special blessing. Ask him to explain how he is acting in the person of Christ, and how, through the priest, Christ Himself is blessing them, just as he did in the Bible passage they have just read.

STEP 6

Remind the children that they learned about the power of God's love in Chapter 1, Lesson 1: "Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands." (Isaiah 49:16a).

STEP 6

1. Practice questions 31 with the class.
2. Pray the Our Father.
3. Sing "to Jesus Christ's, our sov'reign King," *Adoremus hymnal*, # 480

CONCLUDE

1. Set the children to colouring the picture in their packs. The children need to draw faces on the children and may draw themselves into this picture before they start colouring.
2. Pinup pictures of the children under the title "Jesus Allows the Little Children."

PREVIEW

In our next lesson, we will learn about the men Jesus asked to help Him to do His work on Earth: the Apostles.