

POINT ➔ **WE GET TO
KNOW GOD.**

Open your Bible to Mark 10, and show children the words. **SAY: Today we're going to learn something very special about Jesus. God's special book, the Bible, tells us that Jesus loves children very much.**

In today's Bible passage, Jesus was a grown-up. He traveled around teaching lots of people. One day while Jesus was teaching, some people wanted him to touch their children and pray for them.

Give children some *Rainbow Clay*, and have them sculpt a ball. Have kids pretend their balls are children and bring them to you.

SAY: But Jesus' friends, the disciples, told the people not to bother Jesus and to take their children away.

ASK: Tell about a time someone told you not to do something.

SAY: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." He said not to stop them, because they were a part of God's family. He knew the kids were Mighty Minis. Jesus gave the children hugs, let them sit on his lap, and blessed them.

Have children sit in a circle. Go around the circle and gently place your hands on each child's head. As you touch each child, **PRAY: God, help [child's name] know you.**

ASK: What are some things you're not allowed to do as kids, but grown-ups can do?

Why do you or don't you think those are good rules?

SAY: There are some things that aren't safe for kids to do, like drive a car or cross the street by themselves. But getting to know Jesus is for anyone, of any age! Jesus didn't want the disciples to tell the kids no. He wanted to meet those kids!
➔ **WE GET TO KNOW GOD** like those children got to know Jesus.

Collect the *Rainbow Clay*.



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Take out the *Super-Stretch String*. Help the children stretch the string out so they are holding it in a big circle.

SAY: Let's pretend that this big circle is like a big hug from Jesus. We'll take turns and everyone will get to stand inside the circle of God's love and be blessed. To be *blessed* means to have special things happen to you. When someone is inside the circle, we'll all say, "Jesus loves [child's name]."

Have children stand in the circle one at a time for the blessing. After each child has had a turn to be inside the *Super-Stretch String*, lead kids in this discussion.

ASK: What was it like to be inside the big hug?

Describe what it's like when you hug someone who really loves you.

SAY: Jesus loves you just as much as the people who hug you. He hugged the children in the Bible to show that he loves children. When ➔ **WE GET TO KNOW GOD, we learn how much he loves us.**

POINT ➔ **WE GET TO
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Lead children in singing ● “Jesus Loves All the Children” (track 4) on the CD, to the tune of “Jesus Loves the Little Children.” Sing the song two times so kids learn the words.

SING:

Jesus loves the little children, (*hug yourself*)

All the children in the world. (*point around the room*)

You can tell them about him, (*point to mouth*)

Whether they can sink or swim. (*squat down; then pop up*)

Jesus loves the little children of the world. (*hug yourself*)

(Repeat.)

SAY: ➔ **WE GET TO KNOW GOD.**

And we can tell others about his love so they can get to know him, too.

ASK: **What are some ways you can tell if someone loves you?**

What does Jesus do to show he loves you?

What can you tell someone about Jesus’ love?

Have kids go around the room and practice telling each other about Jesus’ love.

SAY: **Our song tells us that Jesus loves all the children. We know that’s true from today’s Bible passage! Jesus didn’t want other people to keep kids away from him. He wanted to get to know them! And Jesus wants to get to know you, too. ➔ WE GET TO KNOW GOD when we get to know Jesus.**

POINT ➔ **WE GET TO KNOW GOD.**

SAY: ➔ **WE GET TO KNOW GOD. We're going to play a game and pretend to be the children who wanted to meet Jesus.**

Sit in a chair with one child (Jesus' Friend) next to you. Have the others stand side by side about 10 feet away. Explain to Jesus' Friend that when the game starts, he or she will say "come" or "stop" to the others, alternating between the two words.

SAY: **We're going to pretend that I'm Jesus. You'll try to come to me like the children in the Bible did. But [name of the child next to you] is Jesus' Friend. If Jesus' Friend says "come," take one big step toward me. If Jesus' Friend says "stop," stop where you are.**

Have Jesus' Friend give instructions to each child individually. The first child close enough to touch you becomes the next Jesus' Friend. Play several rounds. Then SAY: **Now I'll be the one to tell you what to do.** Play this round by saying only "come!" When all the kids reach you, give them each a hug and SAY: **Jesus loves you!**

ASK: **What did you like about this game?**

What do you think about the last time we played?

What do you think about the way Jesus loves you and wants you to come to him?

SAY: **No one can stop you from coming to Jesus. That's because Jesus loves you so much! He wants to get to know you, so ➔ WE GET TO KNOW GOD.**

POINT ➔ **WE GET TO
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Set out paper and crayons. Have children draw pictures of family members or friends. Then gather in a circle on the floor with the pictures in the middle of the circle. Have kids tell about their drawings.

ASK: **What are things you do to get to know those people better?**

What are things you do to get to know God better?

Ask children to pray that the people they drew will get to know God, or get to know God better. Have kids bring their pictures to Jesus by placing them on one of this week's *Bible Buzz Cards*. Make sure the picture on the *Bible Buzz Card* faces up so kids see the picture of Jesus.

ASK: **Why do you think God would want to get to know the people you drew?**

What's one thing about God that you can tell the people you drew?

SAY: ➔ **WE GET TO KNOW GOD. And we can help other people get to know God by praying for them and telling them about Jesus. Jesus loves everyone, and he wants everyone to get to know him.**