



B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Caring for children



Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study can help us explore some of what the Bible teaches about the value and importance of children.



'Taking the child in his arms...'

Read Mark 9:33-37. It is very easy to value children more for what they can become, rather than for what they are in themselves. Children may be seen as a bit of a burden from the time they are born, until the time when they can be useful. This is how children were viewed in the time of Jesus. What Jesus said about children and his attitude to them was, therefore, very revolutionary in his time.

The Greek word used in the New Testament for *child* is also used for *servant* or even *slave*. Children were, therefore, seen as similar in social status to servants or slaves. In this story, Jesus uses a child as a visual aid to teach his disciples.



Key points

- Jesus clearly emphasised the importance and value of children, and said that we can learn from them about the kingdom of heaven.
- The Bible clearly asks us to prioritise looking after the weak and vulnerable.



Questions for discussion

- How did Jesus treat the child that he used as a visual aid? What would the child have felt when Jesus took him in his arms?
- The disciples had been arguing about who was the greatest. What did Jesus mean them to understand by 'welcoming a child in his name'?
- Who did Jesus say would be the greatest or first in his kingdom? How can we respond to this in a world where so many are in need?
- How can we welcome children in the name of Jesus in our community?



Awareness raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peacebuilding

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene



Notes

This Bible study was written by Dewi Hughes and first published in: Tearfund (2004) Footsteps 61: *Children and HIV/AIDS* http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_61-70/footsteps_61/

Related tools

- A1 – Revealing the need to protect children: information for facilitators [*A1: Children & youth-1*]
- A2 – Using the media to talk about child protection [*A2: Children & youth-1*]
- A2 – Drama on child marriage [*A2: Children & youth-2*]
- A2 – Discussing standards for child protection [*A2: Children & youth-3*]
- B – God's view of children (Bible study) [*B: Children & youth-2*]

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