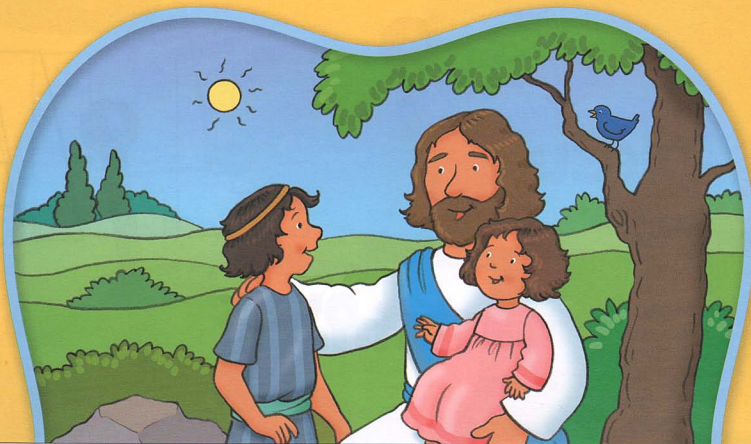


Jesus Welcomes the Children



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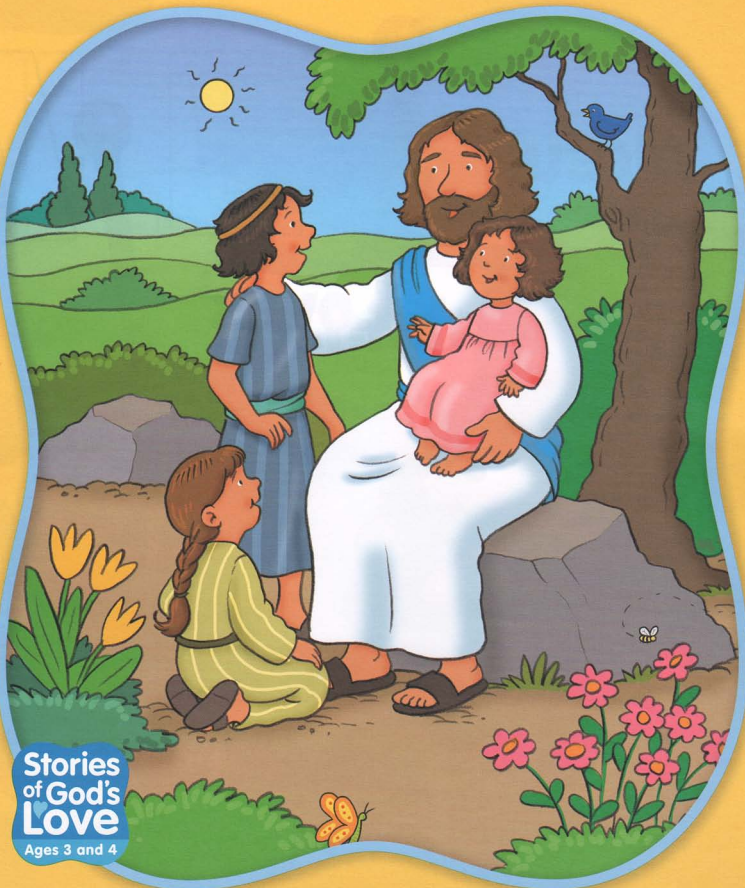
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Jesus Welcomes the Children



Stories
of God's
Love

Ages 3 and 4

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus

Loves

A

Color the flags.
Tell Jesus, "I am glad to be your friend."

ALL

Children



For My Family



Sharing the Bible Story

Let the Children Come to Me

Many people came to Jesus to listen to him. One day some people brought their children to Jesus. They wanted their children to be close to Jesus.

Some of Jesus' special friends and helpers told the people to stay back. They told them not to let the children get too close to Jesus and not to bother him.

When Jesus saw and heard what his helpers were doing, he stopped them and said, "Let the children come to me. Children are very special to God and close to him. You need to love and trust God as children do."

Jesus took the children into his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

BASED ON MATTHEW 19:13-15,
MARK 10:13-16 AND LUKE 18:15-17



Nurturing Our Children

Adults can more easily adjust to change, but children rely on routine to know what to expect at a certain time, such as when to eat, sleep, bathe and have fun. Routine provides kids with a sense of security. By making religion class part of your child's routine, you can help them adjust to this new situation. Be sure to talk with them about what they did in class this week and remind them when they will be going back to class again. Predict for them that they will read stories, sing songs and have fun with new friends while they learn about Jesus and God's love for them.



Living Our Faith Together

Here are three activities to do with your child:

- Ask your child to retell this week's Bible story and reread it to them throughout the week.
- Read the Bible regularly with your child. Using an illustrated children's Bible will help engage and sustain your child's interest.
- Visit www.RCLBenzigerPreschool.com where you will find games and activities to do with your child as well as articles to assist you in nurturing the faith of your child.

Reflecting on Our Faith

What are some of the things that our family does to show our love for God and trust in his love for us?



Praying as a Family

Invite your child to pray this or a similar prayer with you after you read this week's Bible story.

Thank you, Jesus,
for loving the children.

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me.
Amen.

2

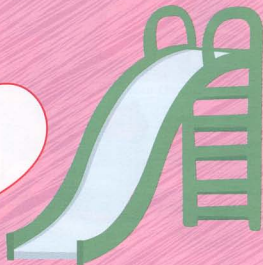
My Teacher Welcomes Me



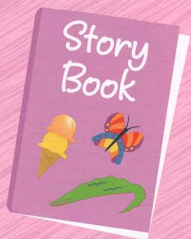
Stories
of God's
Love

Ages 3 and 4

My Favorite Things



Color the hearts next to your favorite things.
Ask a friend to tell you about their favorite things.



For My Family



Sharing the Story

Jamal and Abby

Jamal tucked the fluffy yellow blanket around the baby doll in the toy bed. He was having so much fun playing in the family center during religion class. Abby was in the center with him. She was pretending to cook soup on the play stove.

Abby looked at Jamal and said, "I love to play pretend in the family center. Miss Diaz said we could play here for a little while longer. I'm going to make soup and lemonade for the dolls. Want to help me?"

Jamal smiled at his new friend and said, "Yum! I wish the lemonade was real. It's my favorite!"

Abby giggled and said, "It's just pretend, silly."

"I know," he answered. "I like to pretend. I like to come to religion class so we can play together. What is your favorite thing here?"

"Ummm . . . I like Miss Diaz. She is so nice. And I like the way she tells us stories about Jesus," Abby said.

"Me too!" Jamal said. "And you know what Miss Diaz said? She said Jesus loves all of us!"

Abby smiled as she stirred her pretend soup. Stories about Jesus made her feel good inside. She wanted Miss Diaz to tell them more about Jesus. Abby couldn't wait to tell her Mom all about her new friend Jamal and the stories about Jesus Miss Diaz told them.



Nurturing Our Children

Does your child remember the names of any of his or her new friends from religion class? Your child may not remember at first, but as you drop him or her off each week, make note of the children and families in the classroom. Young children this age rely on their parents to forge new friendships. As your child continues to build relationships with other children in class, perhaps you can get to know other parents. By getting to know other families in your church community, you can help your child develop both socially and as a member of the parish.



Living Our Faith Together

Here are three activities to do with your child:

- Retell and talk about this week's story, "Jamal and Abby." Ask your child to share about some of the friends they have met in religion class.
- Work with your child to create a thank-you card for their teacher. Help them name some of the things they like about this person.
- Visit www.RCLBenzigerPreschool.com where you will find games and activities to do with your child as well as articles to assist you in nurturing the faith of your child.

Reflecting on Our Faith

What does our family do that shows that we are friends of Jesus?



Praying as a Family

Include this or a similar prayer in your child's bedtime prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for religion class.

Thank you for the new friends that *(name your child)* has made.

Thank you for *(name of teacher)*.

Amen.