

Dear Families:

Today we continued our study of the Gospel of Mark. In chapter 10, Jesus was questioned about divorce by the Pharisees, who were hoping to catch Him in a technicality. Jesus responded that marriage is an act undertaken by God, where two people become one. Man cannot undo what God has put together. But that is a discussion more for the adults.

The final verses of today's reading were the focus of our lesson today. Jesus' disciples were barring followers from bringing their children to Jesus for a blessing. When Jesus saw what His disciples were doing, he stopped them. He said, "Don't forbid the children to come to me. The kingdom of God belongs to them." He then blessed them children, and told His disciples that only people who receive the kingdom of God like a child will be able to enter within.

Children are relatively helpless and dependent. They are trusting, and really take astonishingly little to be made happy. Children do not discriminate against other children, and seem to innately understand basic human values. They are also not weighed down and made cynical by the cares and concerns of the adult world: war, taxes, bills, work responsibilities are all just overheard words and not worries for most young ones. This is how we are to receive God. We need to trust Him completely, find joys in simple things, be completely dependent upon Him, and not worry about tomorrow. In this way, we will keep the Kingdom of God within our reach.

I know it seems early, but the class has already begun making plans for this year's Christmas Pageant. They have once again decided to write their own and have a great idea in mind! We hope you can participate- please join us! We are also thinking about Halloween and trick-or-treating, of course! The church will once again be passing out candy to neighborhood children this year on Halloween. If you could support us by donating a bag or two of candy, we would really appreciate it.

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director