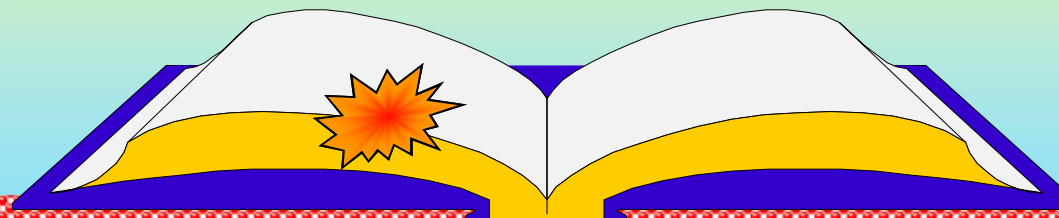


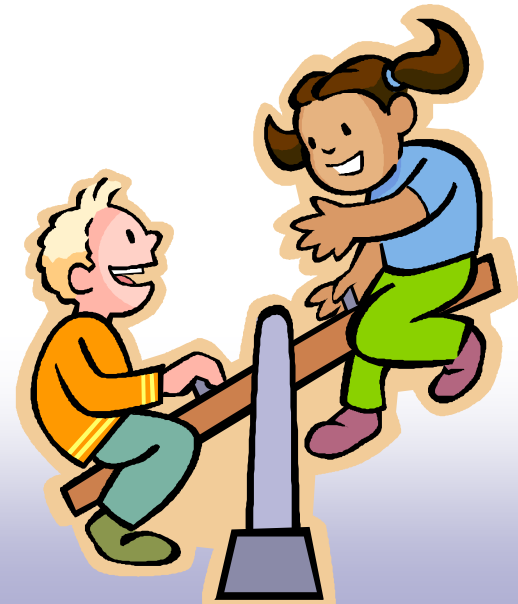
The Child in the New Testament



Matthew 18:1-6

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked,

"Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"



Matthew 18:1-6



Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said,

Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.



Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:1-6



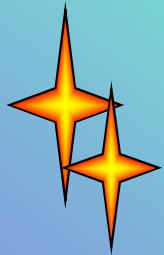
*Whoever receives one little child like this
in My name receives Me.*

*Whoever causes one of these little ones
who believe in Me to sin, it would be
better for him if a millstone were hung
around his neck, and he were drowned in
the depth of the sea.*



Matthew 18:1-14

Who is the greatest
in the kingdom
of heaven?



Christ's Teachings

Part Response

✓ Requirements to enter the kingdom

“Except ye be converted, and become as little children...” Matt. 18:3

✓ Requirements to be the greatest in the kingdom

“Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child...” Matt. 18:4

Key Greek Words

Verse 2 — “Paidión”

little ones



Verse 6 — “Mikros”

very little ones

The Context – 18:3-5



“... unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

3. Children exemplify faith that saves.

4. Children exemplify humility that pleases God.

5. Children test our authenticity.



D.L. Moody once said...

"I believe myself that if children are old enough to come to Sunday School, they are old enough to come to Calvary. Let us make up our minds, God helping us to win the children for Christ."



The Action



Matthew 18:6

But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble ...

- Stumbling means to fall down spiritually.
- The primary application is to believing children
- A secondary application is to unbelieving children

The Warning

Matthew 18:6



...it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

- A small one (2 feet in diameter) was used for capital punishment
- This millstone is bigger—one turned by donkeys



The Contrast with Verse 8:



"If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire."

Verse 8:

If what you
do causes
YOU to
sin

o you're
better off
maimed.

Verse 6:

If it causes a
CHILD to
sin

o you're
better off
DEAD!

Three Stumbling Blocks



So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land ... to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—be careful not to forget the LORD, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt.

-- Deuteronomy 6-10-12

#1: Neglecting spiritual training:
The Comfortable Life• or the desire for it• will be the stumbling block

Three Stumbling Blocks



A recent study found that parents are spending 500% more today on their kids than a generation ago (that is taking inflation into consideration). It is no wonder 80% of “church kids” polled by the Pew Research Center say that “getting rich” is their top life goal. Kids are getting credit cards younger and younger and learning how to get in debt earlier and earlier.

#1: Neglecting spiritual training:
The Comfortable Life or the desire for it. will be the stumbling block

Three Stumbling Blocks



*See that you
do not
despise one
of these little
ones ...*

*— Matthew
18:10*

#2: Undervaluing children:
Preferential treatment will
be the stumbling block.

Three Stumbling Blocks



*Fathers, do
not exasperate
your children*

...

— Eph. 6:4

#3: Exasperating children:

David gives us an example
of:

- . Abandoning responsibility
- . Bitterness
- . Busyness
- . Abuse of authority
- . Hypocrisy

**“Even so it is not the will
of your Father which
is in heaven,
that one of these little
ones should perish.”**

Matthew 18:14



Mark 10:2-16

**“Suffer the little children
to come unto me, and forbid
them not; for of such
is the kingdom
of God.”**

Mark 10:14



Sam Butcher

“Tiny Little Feet...”



A religious painting depicting Jesus, a man with long brown hair and a beard wearing a white robe, sitting and holding a young child in his lap. The child is holding a small bouquet of white flowers. Jesus is pointing his right hand towards a group of children and adults gathered around him. The children are of various ages and ethnicities, some looking up at Jesus with admiration. The adults, including a man with a long white beard and a red headband, are also looking towards Jesus. The background shows a landscape with trees and a cloudy sky.

Outside

Jesus is
happy

Children
are too
old

Disciples(
?) are
happy

What's Wrong with This Picture?

The Context



Mark 10:2-9

- Pharisees debated Jesus
- They tried to trip him up
- They failed

Mark 10:10-12

- The scene changes to a house
- The disciples wanted to know more

The Parents' Intent



13. Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

- They brought young children to Jesus
 - They+probably refers to parents
 - The children are likely toddlers and/or infants
 - For the purpose of getting Jesus' blessing

The Disciples' Response



13. Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

The disciples rebuked the parents

● Their attitude:

- . %This is not the time+
- . %We are doing something more important than blessing children.+

Jesus' Emotion



14. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."

- He was ANGRY!!
- He was angry at the disciples' attitude
 - Their discussion was more important than blessing children
- His words were words of rebuke

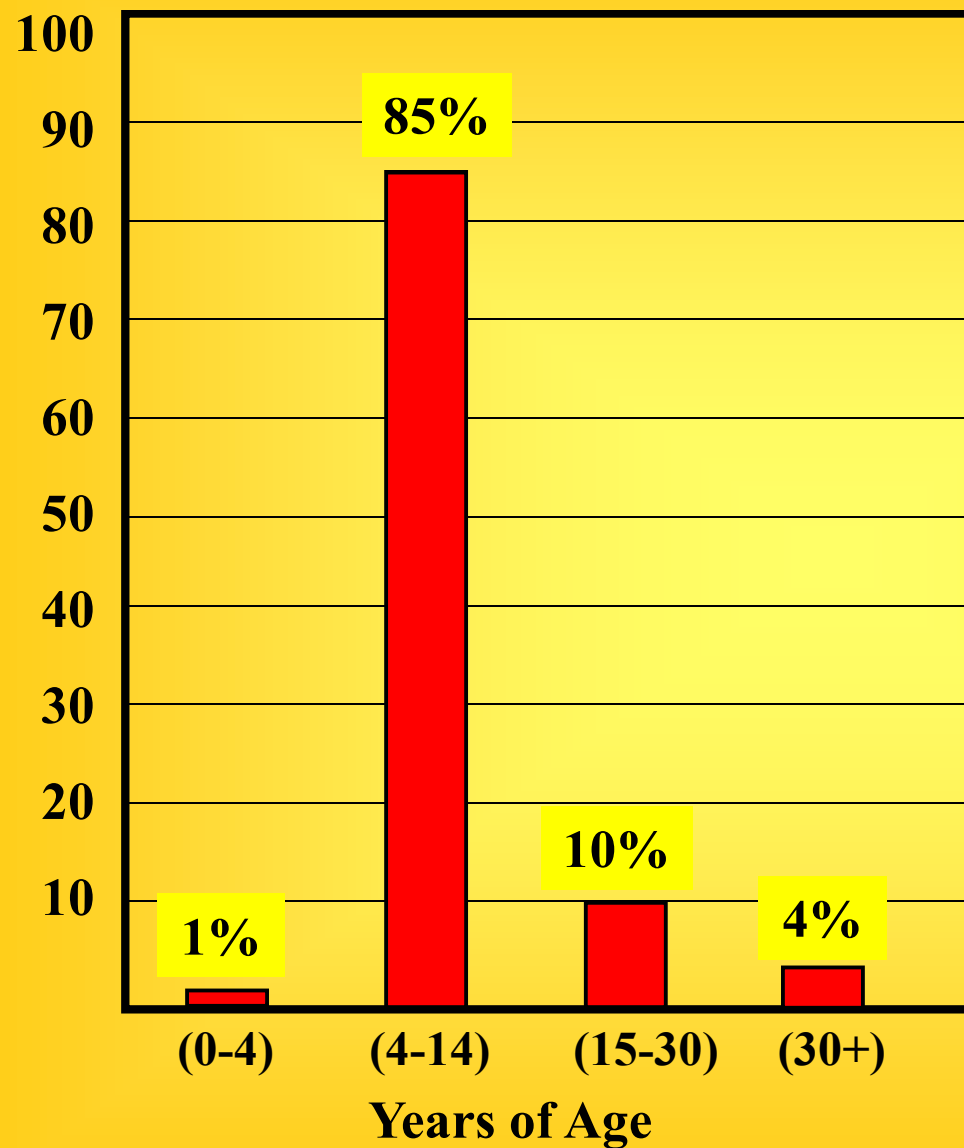


"It is easiest to lead a child to Christ from five to ten years to a definite acceptance of Christ...the younger we get a child to accept Christ and begin Christian training, the more beautiful the product."

"Whatever your church does, let it do its full duty by the children."

R. A. Torrey Theologian/Author





**Ages
at Which
People
Become
Christians**

A photograph of three young children, two girls and one boy, smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing casual clothing, with one girl in a yellow shirt.

**“I sincerely believe that
child evangelism is one
of the greatest mediums
for reaching future
generations for Christ
that there is today.”**

—Billy Graham

A portrait of a young Black girl with short dark hair, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. She is wearing a red top with white polka dots and a thin gold chain necklace.

When a child can experience salvation does not depend on a certain age because the Bible does not mention any age. On the contrary, the only requirement to become a child of God is to believe or receive the Lord Jesus Christ. The moment the child is old enough to recognize he is a sinner and to believe that Christ died for Him, he is ready, according to the Bible, to be regenerated. (John 1:12)

