

## LESSON 4 SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Jesus wants us to be like children!

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn “When we love the way a child does, it is how we enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Mark 9:33-37, 10:13-16, Like a Child

**MEMORY VERSE:**

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3

**SUMMARY:**

Jesus told his disciples that in order to be great, they needed to be like a child. This means that we don't come to Jesus with an agenda to try to be the best or to get something from Him. We come to Him to have a real relationship with Him! Just like a child goes to a father, we can go to Jesus!

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

Dear God,

Help us to always go to you the way we do now as children. Help us to love you the way a child loves a parent. To have a close loving relationship with you!

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

## MEMORY VERSE

“My goal is that their hearts may be encouraged and strengthened. I want them to be joined together in love. Then their understanding will be rich and complete. They will know the mystery of God. That mystery is Christ. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in him.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NIRV)

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NIV)

“I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NLT)

“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (KJV)

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Read the verse to the kids. Ask, “What is the mystery of God? There are many mysteries that we cannot know without a close personal relationship with Him! When we get to know God on a personal level, we learn so much about His amazing character. What is hidden to much of the world is revealed to us because we are close with Him like a child is with a parent.” Open up a Bible and say, “This is one way to find out His mysteries, read his word! Bow your head like you are praying and say, “This is another way, to talk to God and to listen to Him speaking to your heart.” Ask, “How will you get to know Him?”

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Give each kid a Bible and the verse reference to look up. Ask a volunteer to read it and have the kids follow along in their Bibles. Instruct the kids to close their Bibles. Say, “When we close our Bibles and we don’t read them, we are missing out on getting so much help and wisdom from God.” Instruct them to open them up again. “What questions do you have? In what way is God a mystery to you? All you need to do is open up your Bible and read and talk to God, and He will give you the answers you are looking for!”

## SKIT

### Okay, That's Funny!

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

2 Sleeping Bags  
Lantern

#### CHARACTERS:

Scott  
Bill

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Wilderness expert – Scott  
Wilderness expert – Bill

Begin with Scott and Bill standing center stage. Scott and Bill are laying out their sleeping bags and Scott turns on the lantern.

SCOTT: Welcome campers! I'm Scott.

BILL: And I'm Bill. And we are so glad you came back to another session of our wilderness class.

SCOTT: Today we will be talking about everything you need to know to do a fun campout!

BILL: That's right! Going camping can be a lot of fun. And one of the best things about camping is you get to sleep outside.

SCOTT: There aren't many opportunities to do this! The first thing you're going to want to have is a sleeping bag.

BILL: Then you'll need a tent to sleep inside of.

SCOTT: A lantern with new batteries to be sure you have plenty of light. Or you could use a flashlight.

BILL: And snacks! Don't forget yummy snacks.

SCOTT: But I think we are forgetting something very important.

## SKIT

BILL: What's that?

SCOTT: Well, a grown-up!

BILL: That's right. You should never go camping alone in the woods. It's important to have a grown-up with you.

SCOTT: You could go with your mom, your dad, or a camp counselor.

BILL: This is for your safety.

SCOTT: And it's fun to bring your friends, your siblings, or cousins along.

BILL: I like to bring a game like Monopoly. That is a lot of fun to play in the tent.

SCOTT: Yep! That or you could sleep.

BILL: What's the fun in that?

SCOTT: And about grownups...

BILL: Enough about grown-ups. They are boring!

SCOTT: Bill!

BILL: We get it, you need a grown-up with you. But we haven't said enough about the kids.

SCOTT: What do you mean?

BILL: Well, there is a lot about kids that makes them special too.

SCOTT: Like what?

BILL: Well, Scott. Like they always have a fun time! They love to explore nature and see animals and plants. And they are genuine! They spend time with people because they want to be with them.

SCOTT: Good point. Kids are the best.

## SKIT

**BILL:** So, I would say to all the grown-ups out there.... Don't forget to bring your kid when you go camping if you want to have a fun time!

**SCOTT:** Okay, that's funny!

**BILL:** No, I'm completely serious. If you just go with grownups, it'll be BORING! Your kids are guaranteed to make it a fun time. Isn't that right kids?!?

**SCOTT:** Ha ha! This has been fun learning about camping out. Next week we'll be learning about climbing a great mountain! Hope to see you all again.

End Scene

## OBJECT LESSON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Wear a clown wig, nose, and silly clothes

Hey kids! I decided to have fun today and wear this crazy outfit. I thought to myself when I looked in the mirror this morning “Can’t you be less grown up!? Can’t you take yourself a little less seriously? Why not have some fun? Why not dress like a clown.” Okay, I realize that I look a little funny. But today we are talking about being less grown up. There is something about being a kid that Jesus saw as good. He shared it with us so that we would know in what ways we should remain like a child!

I’m not saying that we won’t grow taller. That is inevitable. I’m not saying that we won’t mature, that happens with time. But there is something that we should hold on to. Something that you can begin to hold onto now as a child and NEVER let go of. Because there is something that children have that many adults lose.

No, it’s not playing dress-up, although that was a lot of fun! Jesus said that if you want to receive the kingdom of God, you have to do it like a child. This means you have to accept it like a gift, and not work for it. Just like a child accepts a present. It means you have to seek God and not what you can gain from Him. Just like a child wants a close relationship with a parent because they love them, not to get something out of them. If you want to be great, you need to be like a child. Not someone striving to be the best and get all the glory, but someone thankful. A child is not perfect, but they are open to hearing from God and to loving Him!

God sees you. He knows your heart. He wants you to remain like a child in your heart all the days of your life. You will grow and you will mature, but don’t ever lose that need for God as your Father! He loves you and He wants you to depend on Him all the days of your life. You are never alone. We were not created to grow up and become independent with no need for anyone. We were created and designed to have a relationship with God and to depend on Him.

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### Flashlight Tag

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Lights off  
Flashlight(s)

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose one kid to be “it” and tell the kids to run around the room. Be sure it is not so dark that they can’t see, just dark enough to make it more fun. Encourage kids to hide behind one another to keep from being “tagged” by the light. When someone shines a flashlight on them, they have been tagged, they must go over to the tagger and get the flashlight. Now it is their turn to be “it”. Continue playing for 10 to 15 minutes.

#### VARIATIONS:

For a larger group, name 5 kids “it” and give them each a flashlight.

#### WHAT’S THE POINT?

Grown-ups can be prone to trying to do life on their own. They become independent and don’t think they need help. Just like in this game of flashlight tag, they run around in the dark not knowing where they are going. When God shines His light on them, He reminds them that they need Him, just like a child needs a parent. We were not made to be alone, but to have a relationship with God!

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

**TAGLINE:**

Jesus wants us to be like children!

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn “When we love the way a child does, it is how we enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Mark 9:33-37, 10:13-16, Like a Child

**INTRO:**

Hey kids! Today we are celebrating being a kid! I remember when I was a kid. There are a lot of good memories. What is your favorite thing about being a kid? What is one reason you wish you were a grown-up?

Being a grown-up is great, but being a kid is great too! Enjoy it while it lasts because you'll have the rest of your life to be a grown-up. Speaking of grown-ups, sometimes they think they are more important than kids. Okay, that's just funny! We all know God loves all of us. We are all important to Him. But sometimes grown-ups forget that and think that children are not as valued. Let's hear what Jesus has to say about that!

**READ MARK 9:33-37, 10:13-16**

**MAIN POINT:**

The disciples were arguing about who would get to sit at the right hand of Jesus in heaven. They were fighting over who was more important. Okay, that's funny! Jesus shut them down pretty quickly when said, “Whoever wants to be first shall be last and whoever is last shall be first!” That puts things in perspective! When we try to be first all the time, we are actually hurting ourselves. Then he said, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” Jesus is clear that when people value children the way they should, they are showing that they love God. God loves children and He wants grown-ups to treat them with love!

It's exciting to know that Jesus stood up for kids. That He cares about you just as much as He does adults. You are so valuable to Him all the days of your life. From childhood to adulthood, to old age. He never stops loving you!

Later we read about how people were trying to shew kids away from Jesus. They wanted to see Jesus but they were like, “Get out of here, he has more important people to see!” Wrong again! Not only is no one more important than a child, but a child can actually teach us grown-ups a thing or two. Let's listen again to what Jesus said that we need to be like.

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”

### **DRIVE IT HOME:**

Wow! Not only did Jesus make a statement about how important you are to Him. He also said that adults can learn a lesson from children. That’s humbling! We all need to receive Jesus into our hearts the way a child does. With genuine love. The desire for a real relationship with God. For closeness and to be in His embrace! Just like a child loves a hug from their parent.

As we grow older, let’s not let our hearts become hard. Let’s remember how much we need God and how much He loves us. **JESUS WANTS US TO BE LIKE CHILDREN! WHEN WE LOVE THE WAY A CHILD DOES, IT IS HOW WE ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.** I encourage you to never lose your childlike wonder and your desire to love and to be loved. Some of the best people I know are still a kid at heart! Let’s pray!

### **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

Dear God,

Help us to always go to you the way we do now as children. Help us to love you the way a child loves a parent. To have a close loving relationship with you!

In Jesus’ name,  
Amen

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION K-2ND

### ICEBREAKER:

What is something that kids can do that grown-ups can't?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:2-3

Give each kid a Bible and the verse reference to look up. Ask a volunteer to read it and have the kids follow along in their Bibles. Instruct the kids to close their Bibles. Say, "When we close our Bibles and we don't read them, we are missing out on getting so much help and wisdom from God." Instruct them to open them up again. "What questions do you have? In what way is God a mystery to you? All you need to do is open up your Bible and read and talk to God, and He will give you the answers you are looking for! Try this at home!"

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Give kids a list of fun things to do. Tell them to follow what you say to do as long as it sounds fun, but if you say something boring, they can shout out, "Can't you be less grown up?"

1. Waddle like a duck
2. Roll across the floor
3. Use your arm like an elephant trunk and stomp around
4. Sit up straight
5. Yell out, "Yabadabadoo!"
6. Use your whisper voice
7. Jump up and down and make monkey sounds
8. Etc.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 9:33-37, 10:13-16

What were the disciples arguing about?  
Why is it important to love God like a child?  
What adult do you know that is still a kid at heart?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to love you all the days of our life and to never lose our childlike heart!

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION 3RD-5TH

### ICEBREAKER:

What is something that kids can do that grown-ups can't?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:2-3

Give each kid a Bible and the verse reference to look up. Ask a volunteer to read it and have the kids follow along in their Bibles. Instruct the kids to close their Bibles. Say, "When we close our Bibles and we don't read them, we are missing out on getting so much help and wisdom from God." Instruct them to open them up again. "What questions do you have? In what way is God a mystery to you? All you need to do is open up your Bible and read and talk to God, and He will give you the answers you are looking for! Try this at home!"

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Give kids a list of fun things to do. Tell them to follow what you say to do as long as it sounds fun, but if you say something boring, they can shout out, "Can't you be less grown up?"

1. Waddle like a duck
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7. Jump up and down and make monkey sounds
8. Etc.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Mark 9:33-37, 10:13-16

What were the disciples arguing about? Why was that wrong?

What value does Jesus see in children?

Why is it important to love God like a child?

What adult do you know that is still a kid at heart?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to love you all the days of our lives and to never lose our childlike hearts!

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

Jesus did not want to see the children because He had more important people to see.  
FALSE

When you welcome children and treat them with love and respect, you are honoring God.  
TRUE

Children are to be seen and not heard.  
FALSE

Jesus wants us to grow up and become independent so that he doesn't have to help us anymore.  
FALSE

The way a child loves is with their whole heart. They love people for them, not what they can get out of them.  
TRUE

# MAKE IT STICK

OKAY, THAT'S FUNNY LESSON 4

5 SIMPLE WAYS  
YOU CAN MAKE  
THIS LESSON STICK  
WITH YOUR KIDS

## THIS WEEK'S LESSON

5 Simple Ways to Make This Week's Lesson Stick



### IN THE CAR:

Who does Jesus teach us to love like? A child! He also teaches us to love and respect our children, and that children are a good example of how to love God. When we love God the way a child does, we can enter the kingdom of heaven. Mark 9:33-37, 10:13-16, Like a Child



### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kid if they have ever felt pressure to become independent.

Ask your kid why a relationship with God is the opposite of being alone.



### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

What are some ways that you can go to God the way you do a parent?

Why is love and dependence on God a healthy way to have a personal relationship with Him?

How does it make you feel to know that God values you as much as he does an adult?



### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3



### PARENT TIME:

Jesus is clear about how much he loves and values children. He is also clear about our need to love Him like a child. It takes a humble heart to realize our need for God, even once we've grown up and become "independent". Many times, kids look to us as an example. In this case, take notice of your children and their desire to be in a relationship with you because they love you! Look to them as an example. We don't need to earn God's love. We don't need to go to God just when we need something. Instead, we can have a personal relationship with Him every day and we can depend on Him and love Him! He is our Father. Jesus wants us to love like children.

## TAKE HOME

**Supplies:** White construction paper, markers, and stickers

Ask kids to write at the top of their page, "I can always be a kid at heart!" Then instruct them to draw their favorite toy. It can be something they've had since they were a baby or a new favorite toy.

Say, "This is a reminder that there is nothing wrong with holding on to some parts of yourself from when you were a kid. You can still have a favorite stuffed bear. And you can still keep a soft heart all the days of your life. When we let Jesus into our hearts, we are admitting our need for God. And He promised never to leave us. We can always depend on Him. Even grown-ups need God."