

Jesus Meets the Children

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 15, ages 3-4

Lesson 15 Goal

- Your child will learn that Jesus loves children and welcomed them. This will be related to your child on a personal level.

Key Points

- Jesus loves children and welcomed them.
- When some of Jesus' friends tried to keep the children away from him, Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."



Parent Reflection

Jesus raises early childhood to a new level of dignity by coming to us as a young child. He calls us to treat young children with profound respect, saying, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me" (Mark 9:37).

The preschool age is a special time in that children are just beginning to recognize that they are individual, autonomous human beings, but they are still quite impressionable, and very trusting of the adults in their lives. This is the time when they are better able to allow themselves to be molded and shaped than perhaps any other time in their lives. As we love and care for our children, let us be mindful of the beautiful gift of childhood and be authentic witnesses of Jesus' love.

Reflection Question

In what ways am I a witness of God's love to children?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- drawing paper

- Lesson 15 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“Dear Jesus, we are your little children. Thank you for blessing us today. Amen.”*

Discovering

“Let Them Come to Me!” Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus and the children.

Ask your child, “Would you have wanted to meet Jesus?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. Jesus Meets the Children. Turn to the drawing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (cen-

ter pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity and have your child complete it.

2. “I Am Special” art. Give your child drawing paper and crayons or colored pencils. Have your child draw a picture of himself or herself, making sure to show what makes him or her special. Point out that we all people are special too, because God made us that way.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Dominic Savio. Show your child the picture of Saint Dominic Savio on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Dominic to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child, “Where can you go to answer questions that you have about God?”

Have your child draw about Saint Dominic Savio using the Lesson 15 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

“Dear Jesus, here we are, your little children. Thank you for knowing and loving us. Amen.”

Saint Dominic Savio

Even Children Can Serve God

Dominic looked around and smiled. His family did not have much money. They did not even have much of a home. But Dominic did have nine brothers and sisters. This made him feel happy.

Dominic's mother and father worked very hard to teach him about God. They asked him to serve as an altar boy—helping the priests in the church—when he was only five years old. This filled Dominic with joy! He knew that he was a child, but tried very hard to act the way that God wanted. And when he was older, he did everything he could think of to help children who did not have a home.

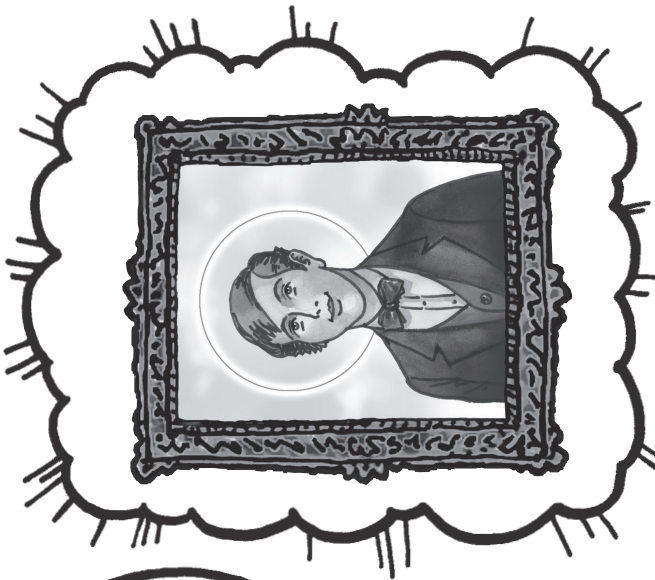
When Dominic was twelve years old, a man

named Don Bosco invited him to become a student at his school. Don Bosco wanted to help children grow up to be good people. Dominic hoped that he would learn how to become a priest when he grew up.

The other children at the school loved Dominic. They could see that he always tried to do the right thing, and so they tried to be like him. In this way, he helped them to be good! That was just what God wanted.

Dominic Savio did not live a long life. He died when he was only fifteen years old. But he always did his very best and live in a way that pleased God.

DRAW



**Saint
Dominic Savio,
pray for us!**