

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*



October 7, 2018

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16



***They Are Precious in His Sight***

*Object: A welcome mat*

Have you ever seen one of these? (Hold up the Welcome Mat.) Do you know what it's called? It's called a welcome mat. We often place a welcome mat outside the front door to our house. What is the real purpose of a welcome mat? I think that sometimes it means, "Please wipe your feet before you come into my house," but the word welcome really means to greet someone in a warm and friendly way. When someone comes to our house, do we really make them feel welcome?

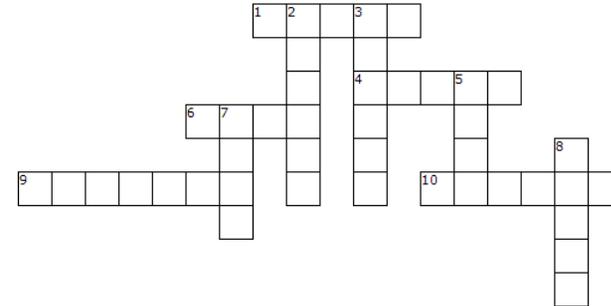
Sometimes I wonder if people feel welcome when they come to our church. Isn't this God's house? How do we welcome visitors when they come through our doors? What about kids? Are children made to feel welcome in our church? What if they don't know how they are expected to act in the worship service? What if they whisper and pass notes to their friends? What if they wiggle and squirm and disturb our worship?

This is nothing new. Way back when Jesus lived some people were not made to feel welcome. Even Jesus' own disciples sometimes didn't understand that everyone was welcome in the Kingdom of God. One day Jesus was teaching and people were bringing little children to have Jesus bless them. The disciples criticized the parents and told them to quit bringing their children to Jesus. When Jesus heard what his disciples were saying, he was very upset. "Let the children come to me and don't stop them!" Jesus said. "The Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. Anyone who doesn't come like a little child will never enter." Then Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them.

Wow! Jesus sure knew how to make a child feel welcome, didn't he? Can you imagine how those children must have felt when Jesus took them up in his arms and blessed them? Shouldn't you and I make everyone feel welcome like Jesus did?

Welcoming God, we want to learn the lesson that Jesus taught us. Help us to make everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, feel welcome in our homes, in our church, in our schools, and in our circle of friends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Crossword Puzzle***



**ACROSS**

1. A person from the time of birth until he or she is grown
4. To put the fingers or hand on something
6. The part of the body at the end of the arm that includes the fingers
9. A country ruled by a king or queen
10. Men, women, and children as a group; human beings

**DOWN**

2. To limit the ability of someone to do something
3. Small in size
5. To move or travel toward the speaker
7. The long parts of the body that are joined to the shoulders and have hands at the end
8. To ask for God's help and protection for someone

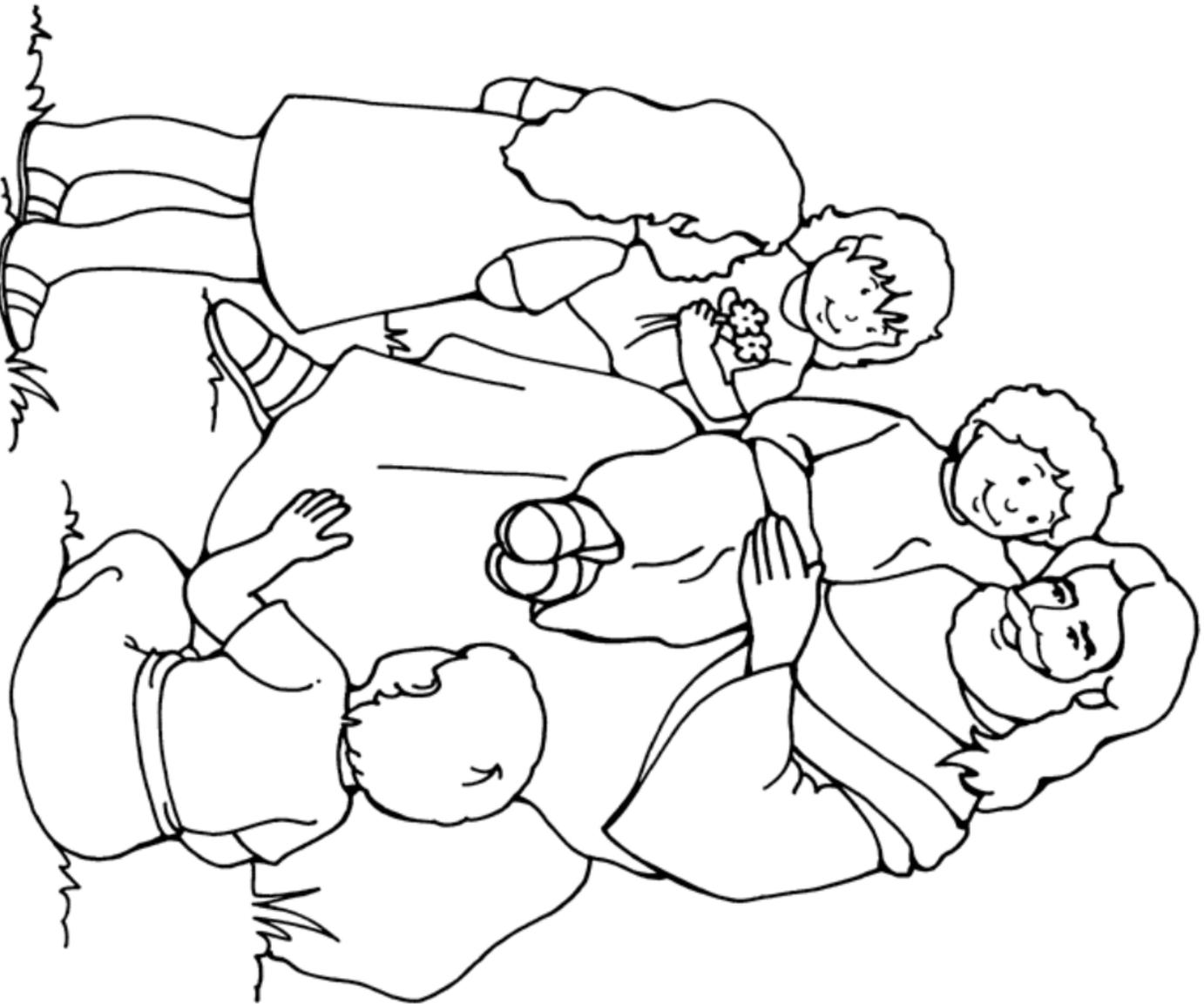
COME	ARMS	HAND	BLESS	KINGDOM
LITTLE	CHILD	TOUCH	HINDER	PEOPLE

**THUMBPRINT CHILDREN:** Let each child press a finger or a thumb into some colored ink pad and stamp on a piece of paper. Each child can do several thumb prints and then draw different faces on each print with different eyes or kinds of hair, etc and then add arms and legs. Children can write over the top of their thumbprint children -- ALL ARE PRECIOUS IN JESUS' SIGHT!!

**Family Table Prayer for October**  
Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest  
May this food by you be blessed.  
Amen.

**October Memory Verse:** Deut 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart.

# Jesus and the Children



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