

Family Page

Background Reflection

Do you remember what it was like when you were a young child? Remember when the adults around you would talk about things that were over your head? Maybe you felt left out or ignored. These are probably not your favorite childhood memories.

Try to put your childhood self into the reading from Matthew's Gospel in this chapter. Imagine you are one of the children being nudged away by the grown-ups. They are talking about you, scolding your parents, and trying to send you away because Jesus is tired and needs his rest. "Jesus has no time to bother with little kids," they say. And then you hear a voice—Jesus' voice—calling you over: "Come here, children, I want to see you." And then there's that smile—warm, open, kind.

This is the Jesus who welcomes you every day. This is the Jesus who has time for you and is never too tired to bless you. This is the Jesus who looks at you and sees your childlike goodness. This is the Jesus who wants to lead you into his Father's Kingdom.

Family Activities

- Talk with your child about a time you were new to a group (a new school, new job, etc.) Share about the way you found your place and if anyone helped you. Help your child think of ways they can help others to feel a sense of belonging.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1496 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*, (Matthew 19:13–15). Ask your child to share what she or he has learned from this story.
- Watch the video "Suffer the Little Children to Come unto Me" (YouTube, 2:41) together. Talk with your child about what it might have been like to meet Jesus when he was among the people. Remind your child that she or he can talk to Jesus in prayer anytime.

People of Faith

Saint John Baptist de La Salle (1651–1719)

Saint John Baptist de La Salle founded the Lasallian Brothers to offer a Christian education to poor children. We pray Saint John's prayer when we remember that we are in the holy presence of God. The Church celebrates Saint John's feast on April 7.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear Jesus, you welcomed the children. You prayed for them and blessed them. Bless us and show us how to be kind and welcoming to all we meet. Amen.

