

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
DISCUSSIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION
MARK 10:13-16 – JESUS AND CHILDREN

Read Mark 10:13-16

1. Why do you think people were bringing children to Jesus in verse 13? What do you think they expected him to do?
2. Why do the disciples rebuke them? (Who are the disciples rebuking? The children or the people bringing them?)
3. How is the mindset of the disciples and the mindset of those bringing children alike?
4. What causes Jesus to be indignant? Have there been other times when Jesus displays such strong emotion?
5. Read Mark 9:33-37 and discuss how it is relevant to our passage. Does anything surprise you about the disciples' behaviour here?
6. What do you think is the place of children in our society? In our churches? How is it demonstrated?
7. If we are parents, how can we be obedient to Jesus instruction to "let the children come to me?" If we are not parents, how can we be obedient to this?
8. What does Jesus mean in verse 14 when he says "for to such"?
9. The "kingdom of God" is mentioned 14 times in Mark. Look up these references and see if you can figure out what Jesus means by the phrase: Mark 1:15, 4:11, 4:26, 4:30, 9:1, 9:47, 10:14-15, 10:23-25, 12:34, 14:25, 15:43.
10. What does Jesus mean by "like a child" in verse 15? Why is the kingdom of God only available to childlike people?
11. What does verse 16 add to the story?
12. If Jesus isn't just talking about "children", but "childlike people", how can we make sure we will enter the kingdom?
13. How is being "childlike" related to helping or hindering others in coming to Jesus?