

WHO IS JESUS LOOKING FOR?

Matthew 18: 2-4

2Jesus called a little child – and the little child came and stood in the middle of the disciples. 3Jesus said to his disciples, “What I say is true: You must change! You must become like little children – or you cannot come into God's kingdom. 4You must humble yourself like this child. Then you will be the greatest in God's kingdom.”

Matthew 19: 13-15 & Luke 18: 16-17

M19:13Then people brought little children to Jesus. The people wanted Jesus to put his hands on the children – and the people wanted Jesus to pray for the children. But the disciples scolded the people: No, go away.

L18:16But Jesus called the children to him. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me – do not stop the little children.

“You must be like the little children – God's kingdom belongs to people like the little children.

L18:17“What I say is true. You must receive God's kingdom like a little child – or you cannot come into the kingdom of heaven.”

M19:15Then Jesus put his hands on the little children.

WHO ELSE IS JESUS LOOKING FOR?

Luke 15: 1-7

1The sinners were all coming near Jesus – the sinners wanted to listen to Jesus. 2But the religious leaders complained, “Jesus welcomes sinners – he eats with sinners.”

3Then Jesus told the religious leaders a parable: 4“Maybe you have 100 sheep. But you lose one sheep. What do you do? You leave 99 sheep on the prairie. You go and look for the lost sheep – you look until you find the one sheep.

5“When you find your sheep you are very happy. You put the sheep on your shoulders – 6and you carry the sheep home. Then you invite your friends and neighbors – and you say, ‘Be happy with me! I found my lost sheep!’

7“‘It is the same in heaven. Heaven is very happy when one sinner repents. Heaven is happier about one sinner than about 99 good people – who do not need to repent.”

WHY DID JESUS COME TO EARTH?

Luke 19: 9-10 & Matthew 18: 14

L19:9Jesus said... 10“I came to look for and save the lost.”

M18:14“Your Father in Heaven feels the same – he does not want one humble person to be lost.”

CONTENT QUESTIONS**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Where did the little child stand? (Matthew 18:2)
- What must we become like? (verse 3)
 - What attitude must we have? (verse 4)

What status do little children have?

Why do you think we must be humble (to enter the kingdom of God)?

- Why did people bring the little children to Jesus? (Matthew 19:13)
- What did the disciples say to the people? (verse 13)
- What did Jesus say about the children? (Luke 18:16)
- Who can go into the kingdom of heaven? (verse 18:17)

What are little children like?

How do little children feel about their fathers? [Daddy! Daddy!]

Do little children love their parents?

Do little children believe and trust their parents?

- What did Jesus do to the children? (Matthew 19:15)

How do you think Jesus feels about children?

- Who wanted to be near Jesus? (Luke 15:1) Why?
- Who complained? (verse 2) Why?

Did the religious leaders think: We are good people?

Did they think: We must say "I'm sorry" to God? We must repent?

Did they love people? Did they want to help sinners?

Do you think sinners wanted to be with the religious leaders?

Or do you think sinners wanted to be with Jesus?

What is a sinner?

[A sinner = think bad things, say bad things, and do bad things]

- In Jesus' parable (story), how many sheep did the person have? (verse 4)
- What did 1 sheep do? (verse 4)

- Then, what did the person do? (verse 4)
- (When he found his lost sheep), how did he feel? (verse 5)

What do you think? Is the person happier about the 1 sheep or the 99 sheep?

- How does the Father in Heaven feel when one sinner repents? (verse 7 & Matthew 18:14)
- Why did Jesus come to earth? (Luke 19:10)

What 2 kinds of people (in today's story) did Jesus come to look for?

[1. Humble and trusting – like children]

[2. Sinners]