



## Children's Object Lesson

**Title:** The Children Recognized Jesus

**Scripture Reference:** Matthew 21:1-17

**Objects:** Pictures of familiar people, like church members, historical figures, and a teaching picture of Jesus

### Teach

Show the pictures one by one and prompt the children to call out the names of people they recognize. Show the teaching picture of Jesus last. Invite everyone to shout Jesus' name together.

**Say:** "You were able to recognize many special people, and we all were happy when we recognized the most special one of all—Jesus!"

**Continue:** "Today, I am going to share a story you may have heard before. It's one we often share around Easter time. But today, I want you to listen carefully to discover who recognized Jesus and gave Him shouts of praise in the temple."

Open your Bible to the Book of Matthew. Read Matthew 21:1-17, or tell the story in your own words. Emphasize that it was the children who recognized Jesus and worshiped Him joyfully.

### Discuss

**Ask:** "How did the priests and scribes respond to the children?" (*They were indignant, or angry and annoyed*) "How did Jesus respond?" (*He defended the children and quoted from Psalm 8, saying that God has prepared praise from the mouths of young children.*)

Talk about how the children in the story recognized who Jesus really was. Point out how the kids praised Jesus as the promised Messiah. Emphasize how Jesus welcomed the children. Reinforce that the kids in today's story were not too young to know Jesus or to set an example for others.

**Say:** "This is true about you, too! You can know Jesus and worship Him right now. You can encourage our church family to know and worship Jesus, too!"

## Challenge

**Say:** "Jesus quoted from Psalm 8 when He welcomed the children's praise. Another Psalm, Psalm 127, teaches us that children are a blessing from the Lord. This means you are a blessing to your family and to our church family, too!"

Mention some ways children serve and encourage your church family.

Challenge kids to think about the special ways God has created them. Invite boys and girls to talk with you or with other trusted adults about ways they can use their talents and gifts to honor Jesus and build up your church.

## Pray

**Say:** "God, You are good and worthy of all our praises. Thank You for creating these beautiful children, for blessing our church family with them, and for including kids in Your plans. Please help our kids to keep learning about You and worshiping You with their whole lives. We love You, Jesus, and it is in Your name we pray, amen."