

**— Before Class —****Lesson Aims**

1. To assure the children that Jesus always has time for them.
2. To explain that Jesus listens to us and hears us.
3. To give each child the personal knowledge that Jesus loves him.

**Inspiration for the Teacher**

The account of Jesus blessing the children gives us a beautiful glimpse into the heart of Jesus and His love and care for children. Some of your students may be surrounded by loving family members and friends, and may have never doubted (consciously or unconsciously) whether they are loved. Other students may live with a dearth of love and affection. These students may crave your attention and demand much of your time during Bible school. It is important that all children realize that they are loved. Hopefully throughout this Bible school course, they have come to understand some of the many ways that God demonstrates His great love and care for them.

Allow yourself to be filled with awe and gratitude to God for His great love to all mankind, including the children you are teaching.

**Supplies You Will Need****NECESSARY**

- Scissors
- Crayons
- Glue and transparent tape
- Lesson picture for each child to paste onto pupil workbook page 26
- Mural section for Lesson 7/tabbed insert for reviewing the story and memory verse
- Lesson 7 Memory Verse Craft sheet for the memory verse craft
- Yarn or string for each child for the memory verse craft
- A one-hole paper punch for the memory verse craft
- Something to reinforce the punched holes for the memory verse craft

**OPTIONAL**

- Playdough for each child for the suggested playdough activity

## — Teaching Lesson 7 —

### Praise and Worship God

Sing the theme song “My God Is So Big” with the accompanying motions.

### Optional Lesson Introductions

- 1. Give each child the lesson picture of Jesus with the children to paste on page 26 in his workbook. Let the children look at the picture while you tell the story of Jesus and the children.
- 2. Ask your class if they enjoy when an adult does things with them. Maybe an adult holds the child in his arms when he is afraid, or takes time to answer a question he asks. Maybe an adult reads a story, or colors a picture with the child. Say, “In our lesson today, Someone very important took time to hold children just like you. Why do you think He took time to hold the children? He did it because He loved the children. This important Person loves you just as much as He loved the children in the story. Listen carefully to find out who this important Person is who loves you so much.”

**Tell or Read the Lesson Story**—Bible Story Text: Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 15:4-7; 18:15-17; Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

#### JESUS TAKES TIME FOR CHILDREN

When Jesus lived on earth, many people followed Him. They listened to Him tell stories. They asked Him many questions.

One day Jesus told a story about two houses. One man built a house on the sand by the water. Another man found a great big rock. He built his house on the rock. Then a wild storm came. The house on the sand crashed into the water. The house on the rock was just fine when the storm quit. Jesus told the people, “If you obey Me, you will be like the wise man who built his house on the rock. But if you don’t obey Me, you will be like the house on the sand.”

Jesus told other stories. He told how a sheep got lost. A kind shepherd found the sheep and carried it back to the flock. Jesus said “I am the Good Shepherd.”

The people liked to be with Jesus. They liked the stories He told.

One day a group of mothers took their children to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to bless their children. They wanted Him to touch the children and hold them and pray for them.

Jesus’ friends saw the children coming. Maybe they thought, *Jesus is so busy! He doesn’t have time to talk to children. He only has time to talk to big people with important problems.* So Jesus’ friends tried to send the children away.

When Jesus saw what was happening, He wasn’t happy. Jesus said, “Let the children come to Me. Do not send them away.”

This made the mothers and the children very happy. Jesus held the children. He put His hands on them and blessed them. Jesus loved the children, and the children loved Him.

Jesus loves you too! Wouldn’t you like to have Jesus hold you or smile at you or give you a hug? I’m sure He would listen to you. Maybe He would tell you a story too!

## Lesson Picture and Rhyme

### Workbook page 26

If you haven't already done so, give each student the picture of Jesus with the children to paste on page 26 of their workbooks. Allow time for the children to look at the picture and talk about what they see and what they remember from the story.

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## Jesus Takes Time for Children

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17



Do you see the children running to the kind man? The kind man is Jesus. Some of Jesus' friends thought that Jesus was too busy to talk to little children. They told the children, "Go away!" Jesus wasn't happy when His friends did that. He said, "Let the children come to Me." That made the children very happy. Jesus held them. He put His hands on them and blessed them. Jesus loved the children, and the children loved Him.

Jesus loves you too! Wouldn't you like to have Jesus hold you and smile at you? I'm sure He would listen to you. Maybe He would tell you a story too!

**Lesson Rhyme**

Though His day was very busy, Jesus did invite  
Little children to be with Him—He was so polite.  
Then He touched them, and He blessed them, and He smiled just right.  
He loves children—what an awesome God!

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## Interactive Coloring Exercise

### Workbook page 27

Use the following instructions to help the children complete and color the picture:

1. See Jesus with the children? He loves them very much. Draw a happy smile on Jesus' face.
2. See the little boy with the flower? He is bringing it to Jesus. Color the flower a pretty color.
3. Which child would you like to be? Color that child's clothes the same color as yours. Jesus loves you just as much as He loves these children.

## Teach the Memory Verse

Help the students learn the verse as usual.

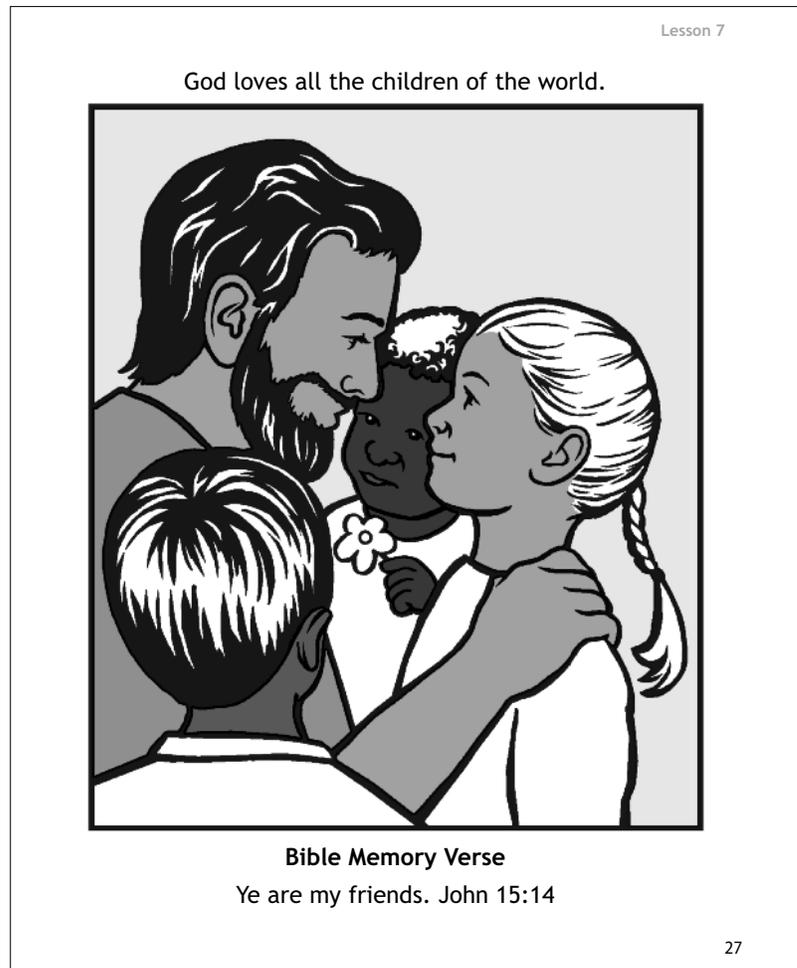
Explain that Jesus is talking in this verse. He wants every child to be His friend.

## Take-Home Memory Verse

### Craft: Let Children Come to Jesus

Have these items ready for each child:

- Sheet containing take-home memory verse craft for Lesson 7 plus the additional piece from page 11 of the craft packet
  - A pair of scissors
  - Fifteen inches of yarn or string for sliding the picture along
  - A hole punch
  - Something to reinforce the holes
1. Give the students the two pieces for the craft.
  2. Punch holes as indicated and reinforce them.
  3. Show how to thread the yarn through the holes in both the large picture and the small picture of the children so that the small picture will slide along the larger one. Tie the yarn behind the picture.
  4. Show the students how to slide the children along the string to Jesus.



Craft Illustration



**Review the verse again. Who is our Friend? How does He feel about little children?**

## Mural and Lesson Rhyme

Take the children to the wall mural and teach them the rhyme for Lesson 7. Insert the tabbed picture of the children running to Jesus. Add motions to the rhyme if you like, or have the children march or clap in rhythm to the words of the rhyme. Repeat it enough times that they can remember it on their own.

Explain the meanings of the words *invite*, *polite*, and *blessed*.

Use the mural to review the previous stories and practice the rhymes that go with them.

## Story Review

### Workbook page 28

Read the questions to the students. Help them select and circle the appropriate answers.

## Revisit the Memory Verse

Use these motions to practice the verse:

*Ye are*—Open arms wide with palms extended to include the whole class.

*my*—Bring arms back in a sweeping motion ending with thumbs to chest.

*friends*—Wrap arms around yourself in a hug.

Lesson 7, Story Review

Circle the correct answer to each question.

What happened to the house that was built on the rock?



What happened to the lost sheep?



Who did the mothers want Jesus to bless?



How did Jesus treat the children?



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## Playdough Activity

Remind your students about Jesus' love for children. Your students can make a simple figure of Jesus with children around Him and on His lap as He tells them stories.

Or, they could make figures about the stories Jesus told. They could form a rock with a simple house on it, and a house on the sand to smash flat while the other stays standing.

They could also form a shepherd carrying a baby sheep in his arms.

## Outdoor Lesson Game: Let the Children Come to Me

Designate a small area for your students to play in, and organize a game of tag. Tell them they must continue playing until they are tired out from running, then they may rest at the "base" where you are reading or telling prepared stories to those who are tired. Remind your students that Jesus loved the children, and wanted them to be safe and rest with Him just like they can rest beside you. If all of the children become weary and want to listen to your stories, allow it to be a special time of planting lessons that Jesus would have told them.

## Application Exercise

Workbook page 29

### Jesus Loves Me

Have the children draw themselves in the empty circle. Then have them draw lines from Jesus to the children He loves. Remind the students that Jesus loves *every* child. Anyone can come to Jesus, and He will listen to them.

### Wiggle Time Activity: Action Rhyme

Have the children repeat each line of this little action rhyme, along with the motions, as you say it.

God is so big; (*Point upward for "God", then spread arms wide for "big."*)  
 We know this is true. (*Tap pointer finger to temple, then bring hand forward and do a thumbs-up.*)

But He's not too big to love (*Shake head "no" as you spread arms wide for "big," then fold them around yourself for "love."*)

Children like YOU! (*Point around the room to the other children.*)

Application Exercise, Lesson 7

## Jesus Loves Me

Jesus made all the little children. They are very special to Him.  
 Draw your face in the empty circle. Then draw lines from Jesus to all the children He loves.

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## Read-Aloud Application Story

### The Day of the Pig

(A story from Puerto Rico)

Maria sniffed hungrily. The pig was roasting over the fire. Whenever a drop of fat fell into the fire, it sizzled, making Maria hungrier than ever. It was always this way on the day of the pig. Señor Mendez roasted a pig behind his store once a month. The pig was on a stick that Señor Mendez turned every now and then. Many people who came to buy gas or groceries would buy one or two slices of the hot meat to take home. Señora Mendez gave Maria some of the pig to eat because she swept the floor of the store every Saturday.

Maria wished she could get enough work to earn a slice for her little sister Blanca, but Señor Mendez didn't have any more work for little girls. Some days Blanca didn't have much to eat. Mango trees grew everywhere in Puerto Rico, and the mangos lay on the ground where Blanca could get them. But Blanca had enough mangos. It was meat she needed. She was too thin.

When the mangos were gone, Maria worried about her family. Papi couldn't find work, and some days Mami's eyes were red. One day Maria heard Mami talking when she was alone.

"Were you talking to God, Mami?" she asked. "Can He hear us if He's way up there?"

## Lesson 7, Jesus Takes Time for Children

Mami smiled. “He’s not only up there. God is everywhere. When I talk to Him, I tell Him about Papi not having work and about us not having enough food. That is what I say to God.”

*Would it help if I told Him too? Maria wondered. I’ll tell God too, that we don’t have enough food.*

All these things Maria was thinking as she watched the roasting pig. In a few minutes it would be done. She was glad for the big slice Señora Mendez always gave her. She and Señora Mendez ate it together. As they ate, Señora Mendez would ask Maria about her family, but Maria never said much. Mami and Papi didn’t like to beg help from anyone.

“The pig is finished,” Señora Mendez said. “As soon as it cools we’ll have a slice.”

Just then a big car drove in. A tall man got out and came into the store. “Is the pig finished?” he asked in a loud voice. “I want four slices.” He watched as Señor Mendez cut off four steaming slices and laid them on a tray. Then he saw Maria standing by the door. “Who are you?” he said.

“Her papi is Jose Ruiz,” explained Señor Mendez. “That little house up on the hill.”

“Jose Ruiz! She can’t be one of those. All of those little ones are nothing but skin and bones. He should feed them for a change. He’s too lazy to even swing a machete. Always a few lazy people around,” the man bellowed.

Maria knew this wasn’t true! She spoke up. “Papi is not lazy. His arms are strong enough to swing a machete. He can cut down a banana bunch, *zing!* It’s his leg that isn’t strong. It hurts when he walks, and the city is too far away for him to work there. He thought he found work last week, but they gave it to someone who was stronger. My papi is *not* lazy!”

Maria started across the lot to the fence. She leaned on it, hot tears falling on her cheeks. Señor Mendez came and put his hand on her shoulder.

“I’m sorry, little one,” he said. “Señora Mendez and I are so busy that we don’t take time to learn about our neighbors. We didn’t know your papi was looking for work. We are getting old. I need someone to tend the gas pumps and help in the store.”

He led Maria into the store where he carefully wrapped some large slices of meat. “I’m sending four slices of the pig home with you. You tell your papi what I said. He is to come down and talk to me if he’s interested in working here.”

Maria ran out of the store and up the hill. Now, if Mami talked to God, it would be happy talk. God must have heard her. Suddenly she stopped, turned, and shouted, “Señor Mendez! Señora Mendez!”

They looked up.

“Thank you, Señor! Thank you, Señora! Thank you very much!”

They waved, and Maria knew they had heard her thanks. Now that she had thanked Señor Mendez and his wife, her family would thank God, too, and then they could all enjoy the pig.

Adapted from *Stories to Grow By*, p. 71

## Optional Worksheet

Workbook page 48

### My Friend Jesus

Hand each child the page and discuss the pictures. Then instruct the children to help you “read” the picture sentences.

Lesson 7, Optional Worksheet

## My Friend Jesus

Jesus loves all children. He's my friend.

Read the picture sentences to your teacher.







Jesus loves me!









Jesus hears me!









Jesus sees me!









Jesus has time for me!









Jesus loves me!



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## Singing

Teach the children the following song.

# Jesus Loves The Little Children

C. H. Woolston

Geo. F. Root



Je - sus loves the lit - tle chil - dren, All the chil - dren of the world Red, brown, yel - low, black, and



white. They are pre - cious in His sight, Je - sus loves the lit - tle chil - dren of the world.