

Year A, Week 22 (April 27, 2008)

Matthew 18:1-5

Kingdom of heaven: Become Like a Child

Hymn suggestions: *Jesus Loves the Little Children*, or *Jesus Loves Me*

Items Needed:

- Jesus figure
- 2-3 disciple figures
- Child figure

While Jesus was on Earth, he talked about the kingdom of God. When the crowds heard him, they probably thought about a king like King David, who was mighty in battle. But Jesus talked about a different kind of kingdom, the kingdom of heaven. (*Set out Jesus and disciples.*)

One day, the disciples asked Jesus, “Who is the greatest person in the kingdom of heaven?”

Jesus asked a child to come over. (*Place child figure by Jesus.*)

Jesus told them all, “Truly, I tell you, unless you can change and become like a little child, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child becomes great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Jesus told them, “Whoever welcomes a child in my name, welcomes me.”

Questions without Response:

- I wonder ... how we grown-ups need to be more like children?
- I wonder ... should we grown-ups start playing again?
- I wonder ... should we use our imaginations more?
- I wonder ... if we should allow other people to be the boss?
- I wonder ... how you can grow up and still be the kind of child that Jesus is talking about?
- I wonder ... if it feels special to know that Jesus loves children very much.