

## Children: Gift and Model

### Lesson Text: Mark 9:36-37, 42



**Key Text:** <sup>15</sup> Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. (Mark 10:15)

#### Lesson Aims

**After participating in this lesson, we will be able to:**

1. Summarize Jesus' interactions with children in Mark 9 and 10.
2. Assess daily habits against the backdrop of Jesus' invitation to become "like children.
3. Repent of ways he or she has been like the disciples, rebuking (even internally) the "least of these.

#### Lesson Text

##### Mark 9:36-37, 42

<sup>36</sup> And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them,

<sup>37</sup> Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, received me: and whosoever shall receive me, received not me, but him that sent me.

<sup>42</sup> And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

## Main Idea

Jesus teaches that **true greatness in God’s kingdom comes through humility, service, and childlike faith**—and He doesn’t just say it, He *models* it.

## Key Themes

### 1. Jesus as the Ultimate Role Model

- Like the quote from **John Wooden**, Jesus teaches through both **words and actions**.
- He demonstrates what it means to:
  - Welcome the lowly
  - Serve others
  - Reject status and pride

☞ His teaching is an “*enacted parable*”—He lives out the lesson.

### 2. Redefining Greatness (Mark 9:33–37)

- The disciples argue about status.
- Jesus responds:

“Anyone who wants to be first must be last and servant of all.”

- He uses a **child** as an example:
  - In that culture, children had **no status or power**
  - Welcoming them = welcoming the least

### ☞ Key truth:

Welcoming the lowly is the same as welcoming Jesus—and even God Himself.

### 3. The Warning Against Causing Others to Stumble (Mark 9:42)

- Jesus gives a **strong warning**:
  - Leading someone away from faith has serious consequences
- The “millstone” image emphasizes:
  - The **weight of responsibility**
  - The seriousness of influencing others spiritually

### ☞ Application:

We are responsible not just for our faith—but for how we affect others’ faith.

### 4. Childlike Faith (Mark 10:13–16)

- The disciples try to keep children away.
- Jesus becomes **indignant** and says:

“Let the little children come to me...”

- Why children?
  - They come with:
    - **Trust**
    - **Humility**
    - **Dependence**
    - **Openness to receive**

👉 **Key truth:**

You don't *earn* entry into God's kingdom—you **receive it like a gift**.

## 5. A Kingdom That's "Upside Down"

Jesus flips normal human values:

<b>World's View</b>	<b>Jesus' View</b>
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Be first	Be last
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Seek power	Serve others
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Earn status	Receive grace
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Value the strong	Welcome the weak
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### Personal Reflection

This part of your text really brings it home:

- Children trust without fear
- Adults often carry:
  - Stress
  - Pride
  - Self-reliance

👉 **Jesus calls us back to:**

- **Trust over control**
- **Joy over anxiety**
- **Dependence over self-sufficiency**

### Practical Applications

Here are simple ways to live this out daily:

#### 1. Practice Welcoming

- Include those who are overlooked
- Show kindness without expecting anything back

#### 2. Remove Stumbling Blocks

- Encourage others in faith
- Avoid attitudes or actions that push people away

#### 3. Embrace Childlike Faith

- Pray with honesty and trust
- Let go of the need to "earn" God's approval

#### 4. Choose Humility

- Serve quietly
- Put others first—even when it's inconvenient

### Closing Thought

Jesus doesn't just teach about humility—He **embodies it**.

To follow Him means to **imitate His example**: welcoming the least, trusting fully, and living with humble love.

## Summary

Jesus teaches His disciples that true greatness in God's kingdom comes through **humility, service, and childlike faith**. After they argue about who is the greatest, He uses a child as an example, showing that welcoming the lowly is the same as welcoming Him and God. In contrast to worldly values that prioritize power and status, Jesus emphasizes caring for the weak and serving others.

He also gives a serious warning: anyone who causes others—especially the vulnerable—to stumble in their faith faces severe consequences. Believers are called to remove obstacles that hinder others from coming to Him.

When people bring children to Jesus, the disciples try to stop them, but Jesus insists that the kingdom of God belongs to those who receive it like a child—with trust, humility, and openness. He models this by embracing and blessing the children.

Overall, Jesus redefines what it means to belong to His kingdom: not by earning status, but by **trusting like a child, serving others, and welcoming everyone with love**.



### **Daily Bible Readings**

**Monday:** Proverbs 24:1-6

**Tuesday:** Luke 2:40-52

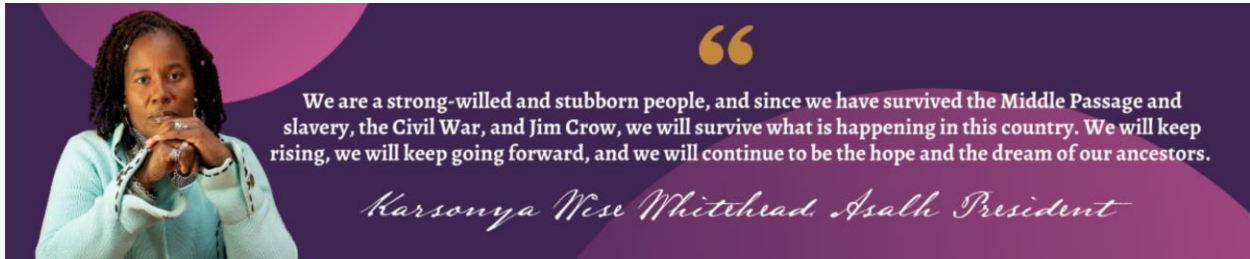
**Wednesday:** Ephesians 5:21-33

**Thursday:** Joshua 24:15-21

**Friday:** Joshua 24:22-28

**Saturday:** Matthew 19:3-9

# BLACK HISTORY



## Association for the Study of African American Life and History

The mission of the ASALH® is to promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community. Established on September 9, 1915, by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, we are the Founders of Black History Month and carry forth the work of our founder, the Father of Black History. We continue his legacy of speaking a fundamental truth to the world—that Africans and peoples of African descent are makers of history and co-workers in what W. E. B. Du Bois called, “The Kingdom of Culture.” ASALH is in short, the nexus between the Ivory Tower and the global public.



*The Negro Historical Association with Carter Woodson (with bow tie) seated next to Mary Church Terrell (in white) in front row, center, of this portrait (1925). Source: Courtesy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University Archives, Howard University, Washington DC*

We are in the final stages of organizing the Northern Virginia Branch. If you have any questions, please contact: *Deac Joe Boutte, Bro Harvey Woodson, or Rev Gillis M. Taylor.*

**Come Join ASALH!!**