

Phonics Script

**Jesus Thinks
Children are Important
(short a)**

Based on Luke 9: 46-48 and Luke 18: 15-17

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This is a Bible story that a student and a tutor can read together. This story is a combination of two stories taken from Luke 9: 46-48 and Luke 18: 15-17. These passages are included at the end of this script.

The student will read the parts of the **CHILD**. The tutor will take all the other parts. Feel free to read with some dramatic flair. One reading comprehension question is included as part of the script. The student can answer in his/her own words when you get there.



NARRATOR: The disciples of Jesus are walking down a road (disciples are followers). Jesus is walking quite a bit ahead. A group of children are near. One child runs up and pulls at a disciple's robe.

CHILD: Are you Matt the tax-man?

MATT: Yes, I am Matthew. I once collected taxes, but now I am a very important disciple of a very important man. His name is Jesus. He is the son of God.

CHILD: Can I pass?

MATT: You are asking me to let you pass to see Jesus? Don't be silly. You are nothing but a child, Jesus is a very important man.

CHILD: Can my pal Sam pass?

MATT: No, again! Not you or your friend Sam. Jesus' time is very important. His time can't be wasted on children.

CHILD: Can Nat with the bad hand pass?

MATT: No, and No! Jesus has much more important things to do than look at some dirty child's hurt hand.

CHILD: Can sad Dan pass?

MATT: No, No, No! Dan is all wet and messy from crying. Jesus doesn't want to see kids and he doesn't want to see dirty, crying kids.

CHILD: Can Pat pass? She is in rags.

MATT: No, No, No, No! Children can't pass to see Jesus! Especially poor children who dress in rags. Now, scat all of you.

NARRATOR: After chasing away the children, Matthew joins the conversation the rest of the disciples are having. Jesus is still way up ahead. The children continue to follow at a distance.

JAMES: You know, Jesus is the most important person in the world. He chose us to be his disciples because we are really important.

ANDREW: You are so right. Our group of twelve disciples is more important than any other group. And who's the most important person in this very important group? Me. I'm the most important disciple because Jesus chose me first. I'm the most important person in this most important group.

SIMON: Jesus chose me first, too! Plus I'm strong and I'm a good fisherman.

JAMES: I'm going to ask him if I can sit at his right hand in Heaven.

JOHN: I'm sure I'm the most important, I'm the smartest.

MATT: Well, I've done the most work.

NATHANAEL: Well, I'm the best looking.

NARRATOR: Jesus has been walking ahead, but he slows down and lets the disciple catch up with him.

JESUS: Sounds like you are arguing. What are you arguing about?

MATT: We are trying to decide which of us you think is the most important disciple.

JESUS: Come, all of you, sit down under this tree, I want to talk to you. Many people think that important people are the smart people, or the strong people, or the good looking people, or the rich people. Some people ignore people who don't seem that smart, or who have limps, or can't talk well, or who are weak, or sick, or poor, or dirty, or don't know how to make friends.

I see things very differently. In fact, I see things just the opposite. The least important person among all of you is the most important.

NARRATOR: By this time the children have caught up with Jesus and the disciples. The children have heard what Jesus said. The **CHILD** runs up to the group sitting around Jesus.

CHILD: Jesus, Jesus can we pass? We ran to Matt and he said scat.

MATT: I told you not to bother Jesus. You are just little children. Jesus is a very important man and we are talking about very big important adult things with him.

JESUS: Matt, Matt, my friend, you are not listening to me.

NARRATOR: So Jesus takes the **CHILD** and has the **CHILD** stand beside him.

JESUS: Dear Child, Matt wasn't really listening to what I just said about who is important to me. Tell him what I said.

CHILD: Reading comprehension ... student answers in his/her own words)

JESUS: Anyone who welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me. And anyone who welcomes me welcomes the One who sent me. Listen to me, Matt, children are important to me. Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. God's kingdom belongs to people like them.

MATT: But they are just children, how can they know anything about important things like God.

JESUS: Children can know a lot about loving God. Actually, adults can learn a lot from children about loving God and about being loved by God. Anyone who will not receive God's kingdom like a little child will never enter it.

CHILD: Can my pal Sam come to you?

JESUS: Yes! Come let me hug you, Sam.

CHILD: And Nat with the bad hand can come to you?

JESUS: Yes, again! Let me see your sore hand, Nat.

CHILD: And can sad Dan come to you?

JESUS: Yes, and Yes! Come Dan, you'll get a big hug, too.

CHILD: And Pat in rags can come to you?

JESUS: Yes, Yes, Yes. Come, dear Pat, my disciple Matt will get you some new clothes.

CHILD: And I can pass and come to you?

JESUS: Come! You can come and sit on my lap and I'll tell you how much I love you. You are very, very important to me. All children are very, very important to me.

CHILD: I am glad! We can pass at last!

THE END

Luke 9: 46-48 (New International Reader's Version)

The disciples began to argue about which one of them would be the most important person. Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he took a little child and had the child stand beside him. Then he spoke to them. "Anyone who welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me," he said. "And anyone who welcomes me welcomes the One who sent me. The least important person among all of you is the most important."

Luke 18:15-17 (New International Reader's Version)

People were also bringing babies to Jesus. They wanted him to touch them. When the disciples saw this, they told the people to stop. But Jesus asked the children to come to him. "Let the little children come to me," he said. "Don't keep them away. God's kingdom belongs to people like them. What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who will not receive God's kingdom like a little child will never enter it."