

Bring Them to Jesus, Part 1: The Method of the Gardener

1. "...Jesus said, " _____ the little children come to Me, and do _____ forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And He laid *His* hands on them and departed from there" (Matthew 19:13-15, NKJV).
2. "Contact with the Jesus of the Gospels will keep the _____ of children before our eyes. Children are not marginal to Jesus, as his disciples mistakenly thought. Jesus teaches his church that children need and deserve _____...they need to be _____...and they need _____" (Bruner, F. D. *Matthew: A Commentary: Vol. 2, p. 283*).
3. "And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them" (Mark 10:16). That phrase "took up in His arms" is from the Greek word *Enagkalizomai*—which means _____.
4. "The main venue for the time, touching, and prayer of Jesus is the Christian home, especially in _____ bedtime devotions. Here the Priesthood of Believers comes into its most intimate practice" (Bruner, p. 284).
5. "Any who make it difficult for children to find the Master today are sure to encounter His utmost displeasure and to earn His severest rebuke. There is room for little children in the kingdom of divine grace. In the home, in the church, in the school, the needs and interests of children are ever to be accorded a place of _____ importance" (*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 5, p. 456).

Seven highlights from *Desire of Ages*, "Blessing the Children":

- 1) "Jesus was ever a lover of _____...." (511).
- 2) "Even the babe in its mother's arms may dwell as under the shadow of the Almighty through the _____ of the _____ mother.... If we will live in communion with God, we too may expect the divine Spirit to mold our little ones, even from their earliest moments" (512).
- 3) "It is _____ true that children are the _____ susceptible to the teachings of the gospel....(515).
- 4) Teach our kids to _____ of their sins and obey God because they love Him. "We should teach them to bring their sins to Jesus, asking His forgiveness, and believing that He _____ and receives them" (515).
- 5) "The grace of Christ in the heart will...soften whatever is _____, and subdue all that is coarse [rude] and unkind. It will lead fathers and mothers to treat their children as intelligent beings, as they themselves would like to be treated" (pg. 515).

- 6) "Ask the gardener by what process he makes every branch and leaf to flourish so beautifully, and to develop in symmetry and loveliness. He will tell you that it was by no rude touch, no violent effort; for this would only break the delicate stems. It was by little attentions, often repeated. He moistened the soil, and protected the growing plants from the fierce blasts and from the scorching sun, and God caused them to flourish and to blossom into loveliness. In dealing with your children, follow the method of the _____. By gentle touches, by loving ministrations, seek to fashion their characters after the pattern of the character of Christ" (516).
- 7) "Do not give them the false impression that the religion of Christ is a religion of gloom, and that in coming to the Saviour they must give up all that makes life _____" (pg. 517).

Answers: Let, not, specialness, time, embraced, prayers, hug, regular, major, children, faith, praying, still, most, repent, pardons, harsh, gardener, joyful