

The Kingdom of Heaven Belongs to Such as These.

Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

If you have to edit out the "bad stuff" when teaching a four-year-old child about God, there is something wrong with your theology. Here's how a loving father might correctly describe what God is like to a four-year-old child. No need to edit out the bad parts, because there aren't any.

God is an invisible person who made the world and created all the people in it. He also made the sun, moon and stars, and He lives in Heaven where people go after they die. He also lives here in this world, but you can't see Him. He even lives inside of you. He's not really a he or a she, but Jesus, called Him a he because He is like a human father who loves his children very much. I am your human father/mother, and God is your heavenly father. God loves you even more than I do, if that is possible. He not only loves you, but He also loves everyone else in the world. He watches over us and helps us to learn right from wrong so that after we die we will receive rewards in Heaven.

There is nothing you can do that will cause me or God to stop loving you. It doesn't matter how many bad things you do. It makes me sad when you behave badly towards your brothers and sisters, because they are also my children, and I love them very much. Sometimes I punish you when you misbehave. I wish I didn't have to do this, but I only do it because I love you and want you to learn how to treat others with love and respect. I want you to be happy and have a happy life. If you don't learn how to treat others with love and kindness, then you will have a very unhappy life.

God loves us all very much, so he gave us a rule that we must learn to obey if we want to live happy lives. It's called the Golden Rule: *"You must behave towards others the same way you would want them to behave towards you."* If you want them to love you, then you need to show love to them. If don't want them to do bad things to you, then you should not be doing bad things to them. The secret to finding happiness in life is to help others to find happiness and to treat everyone with love and respect.

Someday, after you grow up, you will leave home and probably get married, and I won't be there any more to watch over you or punish you when you misbehave, or

reward you for doing good. Hopefully, you will have learned by then to behave in ways that I would approve of. If you learn your lessons when you are young, then you will have a very happy life after you grow up and leave home. You need to know, however, that God will be watching over you for the rest of your life. If you pray to Him, He will guide you and help you to live a happy life.

If you don't ask God to help you, and if you continually behave selfishly and harm others, you will have a very unhappy life, and a lot of bad things will happen to you. When you behave badly to others, they will do bad things to you. You will lose many rewards in your life and in Heaven after you die, but I will never stop loving you. I will be waiting for you here, if you need to come home again, no matter what. The same is true of God who will be waiting for you in your home in Heaven after you die. I will always be your loving earthly father/mother, and God will always be your loving Heavenly Father.

I expect only the best for you. I believe that you are going to learn your lessons and live a very happy life. I just want you to know that whatever happens, both God and I will always be there for you.

Richard Goyette