

## 1.1 How can a teacher get God’s heart for children? Including special categories of neglected, abused, overlooked and marginalized children (the forgotten children)

### A summary of some outstanding Bible verses showing God’s heart for children:

Genesis 18:19

Deuteronomy 4:9, 4:40, 6:5-7, 7:9, 31:12-13

Psalms 68:5, 78:1-7, 102:18, 127:3-5

Proverbs 29:17

Jeremiah 1:5-8 (Probably 18-20 years old at the time of his calling)

Jonah 4:10-11

Matthew 10:40-42, 11:25-26, 18:1-14, 19:13-15, 21:4-16

Luke 9:38-39, 9:48, 18:15-17

Acts 2:39

Ephesians 5:1, 6:4

Colossians 3:20

1 Corinthians 7:14

1 Timothy 4:12

2 John 4, 3 John 4

#### **God’s heart for orphans**

Psalms 10:14 & 19, 68:3, 5-6, 146:9

James 1:27

#### **God’s heart for slaves**

Deuteronomy 15:12-18

#### **Teaching Suggestion/ Cultural Consideration:**

Have leaders read the verse in various native languages of the area.

When presenting a verse or passage from Scripture, you should prepare by carefully thinking through and making notes about what you see in the verse and how it relates to the concepts you want to present.

But rather than preaching or lecturing your conclusions, it is sometimes wise to encourage leaders to think about the verses themselves. If they know you are going to tell them what it means, they can go into neutral mode, waiting for you to tell them the right answer.

Instead, try asking them what they see in the verses. Draw them out with questions. You can always add any thoughts they may have missed. This process may also bring out any ways in which the target culture would understand the verses differently than you would.

Psalm 103:6

Isaiah 61:1

Jeremiah 22:13

Joel 3:3

**God’s heart for child sex workers**

Joel 3:3

**God’s heart for the poor**

Exodus 30:15

Leviticus 19:9-10, 15

Deuteronomy 15:11

Job 5:16, 20:19, 29:12

Psalm 22:6, 34:6, 40:17,68:10, 74:21, 107:41, 113:7-8

Proverbs 22:9 & 16, 22-23, 23:10-11

Isaiah 61:1,

2 Corinthians 7:10

**Bible Accounts of Children and Youth Who Were Mightily Used by God:**

Joseph            Genesis 37  
Miriam            Exodus 2:1-10  
Samuel            1 Samuel 2:18, 2:26  
David             1 Samuel 17  
Solomon          1 Kings 3:7-10  
Josiah             2 Kings 22:1-2  
Joash              2 Chronicles 24:1-2  
Daniel             Daniel 1:3-4, 6:10  
Daniel’s Friends Daniel 1:3-4, 3:16-18  
Jesus              Luke 2:46-47  
Boy with Lunch John 6:9  
Children in Temple Matthew 21:14-16



Rhoda Acts 12  
Paul’s Nephew Acts 23:12-35  
Timothy 2 Timothy 3:14-15, 2 Timothy 5-6

**God’s Heart for Future Generations:**

Genesis 18:19, Exodus 20:5-6, Psalm 102:18, 103:17

**Discussion Possibilities:**

- Considering the teachings of Scripture regarding children, what are the main Biblical reasons for ministering to children?
- How are children thought of in this culture? How are they treated in this culture? (Think about overt actions, words, expectations, inclusion or exclusion, etc.) How are they treated in the church of this culture?
- How do these attitudes and practices compare to Scriptural teaching?
- What keeps us from ministering to children?
- What keeps us from making it a priority?
- Share ways in which a child has ministered to you.
- Share stories you’ve heard of how children have ministered to others in this culture.
- Does our welcome for children reflect the welcome God has for them? If not, how does it need to change?

**Some main principles:**

Children’s praise—God is pleased with it, the enemy is silenced by it.

**Application—What will you do about it?**

Can you think of one or two things God might want you to change in your relations to children or efforts on behalf of children? Have a talk with the Lord about it right now.