



FAITH FOCUS

Encountering Jesus ~ Fully Known, Deeply Loved

≈ Children encounter Jesus ≈

Chapel Scripture: Mark 10:13-16

At AACCS, it is our desire to partner with you in the faith formation of your children. It has been said that repetition is the mother of learning, so having the truths presented at chapel reinforced at home helps these truths to stick. After each chapel, we will be sending home a Faith Focus newsletter, which will give you the Scripture that was presented and some key thoughts or questions. We would encourage you to discuss them with your child(ren). This will give you a jumping off point and will allow the concept to be reinforced in an age-appropriate manner.

Our goal through our chapels this year is to help our students encounter Jesus. That is, to continue to move from familiarity with Jesus to intimacy with Jesus. Knowing *about* someone is vastly different than *personally knowing* a person. In Ephesians 3:16-19, Paul prays that the Ephesians would have the power to grasp how high, how wide, how deep, how long is the love of God in Christ and to **know** this love that surpasses knowledge. The word *know* in that verse is a first-hand, intimate, and personal knowledge of the love of God. That was Paul's prayer for the Ephesians, and it is our prayer for our students and for ourselves.

Each chapel will focus on a different encounter that an individual or group had with Jesus. This week's chapel looked at children encountering Jesus. This is such a familiar passage. However, I would encourage you to re-read it and notice the intimacy Jesus displayed with the children. He didn't teach them from afar. He took the children in his lap. He laid his hands on them. Have you ever wondered what Jesus said as he personally touched and spoke with each child? As we examine each encounter with Jesus, we will be especially paying attention to how Jesus fully knew each individual and how Jesus deeply loved each person.

Today, we also launched chapel families. Chapel families are multi-age groupings which are led by our 8th graders. As part of each all-school chapel, we have a chapel family time for some hands-on activities that reinforce the message. Pictures of the students in their chapel families will be hung up in the Gathering Space in the next week or so.

Finally, after each all-school chapel, teachers will lead their class in a prayer exercise in which the students listen to the Scripture again, put themselves in the story, and allow God to reveal and speak to them in this way. Be sure to watch for those papers coming home the week following a chapel.

Challenge: Read this Scripture aloud as a family. Ask everyone to imagine themselves in the story. Would you be jumping into Jesus' lap or hiding shyly behind your parents? Would you be pulling on Jesus' robe trying to get his attention? What do you think Jesus would say to you as He put His hands on you to bless you?