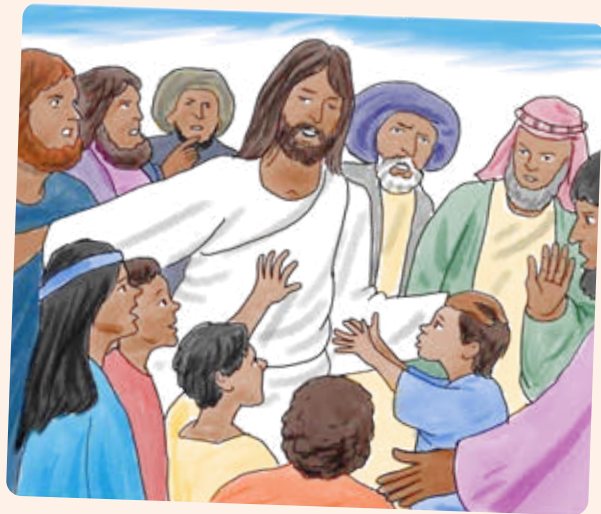


One day, Jesus and his disciples were on a journey. But wherever they went, people seemed to follow them, crowding around to hear Jesus talk. There were some Pharisees in the crowd that day. They wanted to test Jesus, so they asked him a difficult question: 'Is it lawful for a man and woman to divorce?' Jesus was quite clear. He reminded them, 'In the beginning God created man and woman. He created them to be together and to be married for all of their lives. That was God's plan; that is how he would like it to be.'

In the crowd, there were also lots of small children. People were bringing them to Jesus and asking him to bless them.* The disciples were not happy – they thought it was a waste of Jesus' time. They tried to stop the people bringing the children. This made Jesus really cross. 'No, don't push these children away! Let them come to me,' he said. 'You must not keep them away. These children are at the centre of God's kingdom.*'



'You need to be more like them; to have complete faith and trust in me, just as they do.' Then Jesus gathered the children up in his arms and he blessed them.

Mark 10.2-16

* See *Share the Word*.