

John 6:5-12 (William Hayhoe, Jr.) 207612

Vestal Conference: 1998, Children in the Bible (6:5-12)

Children—Will Hayhoe

I'd like to welcome all the children to Sunday school this morning. We have some empty chairs still up at the front here if there's any children that want to come on up. I brought with me a little object lesson and a couple of the objects are pretty small, so you'll get a lot better view if you're up here at the front. Well, we'll start this morning with singing. I wonder how many of the children here this morning like to sing. Why don't you put up your hand if you like to sing? Almost everybody's putting their hand up, but we have the hem sheet here. I hope each one of you has one. And on the back, from numbers 40 to 47, there are some children's hymns. And uh, who would like to give out the first one? This morning. Yes, Sally, what would you like to think? 47 Thank you. 47 When he cometh, when he cometh to make up his jewels. Why? Why do you like this one, Sally? Is this your favorite one? I think it's probably because of the jewels, isn't it? This song speaks of jewels. And we'll sing it together. Then we might have a question for you at the end. OK, so let's, uh, sing #47 together. And if I could ask someone to help us this morning by starting the hymns as we go, please. OK, that was very good thing. I wonder if one of the children would be brave enough to put up their hand and tell me. In this song it talks about jewels. And what are these jewels? I wonder if anybody was thinking when we were singing verse 3? There's a lot of people here this morning, isn't there? But you can just pretend it's just us up here at the front and uh, then maybe that'll make you a little braver. Yes Well, what, what are the jewels? The children very good. That's right. It says in verse three, if you look at your hymn sheath and what we just sang verse three, it says little children, little children who love their Redeemer are the jewels, precious jewels, his loved and his own. You see, little children, and for all of us, if we love the Lord Jesus, if we know him, he looks on us as jewels and what what's special about a jewel? What's special about a jewel? Maybe I should ask. First of all, in this song it says that we're the jewels. What is a real jewel? What does it look like? Who can tell me?

Something that goes on sometimes on a ring or on a necklace, right? And it shines, it sparkles, right? And it's pretty. And usually they're, umm, something that we value. A jewel isn't something just that you would, uh, wear one day and then never be bothered with again. No, you'd keep it and treasure it and look after it. Well, the Lord Jesus looks down and he thinks of us as his jewels, and he cares for us, doesn't he? So it's good to, uh, as we sing these songs together, let's think about what we're singing. OK, All right, let's see who would like to choose the next one. Yes, Leslie, what would you like to think? 46 #46 Oh, the one just before it. OK, let's sing together #46. And that's another very good song for the children. Now let's before we continue on, let's just bow our heads and we're going to ask the Lord's help and blessing this morning on the time together, OK? OK, another one, another song. Yes, Melanie, what would you like? You know which number. 47 What we already sang 47 You want to choose another one? Maybe you know one by the first line. Do you know one by the first line at home? These numbers are different than probably the one you sing at home. Well, Melanie doesn't have another one. Let's see if somebody else have one. Yes, what would you like? 40 Oh yes, this is a favorite right #40 Jesus loves me. Yes, I know for the final characteristics of 100000 09009009. Nsnoise. Pizza Hut. On my mind. Yeah. Well, that was very good. I wonder if one of the children can tell me a verse from the Bible that would tell us that Jesus loves us. I think we all know that the Lord Jesus loves us, right? And all these hymns that we're singing here, they come from the Bible. There's verses in the Bible that would show it, show us that these hymns are true. How about you, Jonathan? Do you know a verse from, can you think of a verse in the Bible that tells us that Jesus loves us or that God loves us? Very good. I thought that's what you were gonna say. John 3:16 And I think probably many of the children here know that one by heart, don't they? For God so loved the world, says for God so loved the world. That would include everybody here this morning, right? Definitely. And all the children too. You know, there's a verse in Galatians 2, Galatians 2 and 20. It says the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. That makes a little bit more personal. God loves the whole world and it says that the Son of God loves me. I hope each one of you can say that this morning that Jesus loves me and that you realize it. OK, another one. Who wants to sing another one? Do you have one key? Hi, Brent. I'm sorry, that's Brent. What a friend we have in Jesus. I think that one's in here. It's not on the Backpage, but we can certainly sing it. 39. Thank you. Yes #39 that's a very good one for the children too. OK, we'll sing #39 together. Nsnoise. Things. Nsnoise. OK, well thing two more. And we're gonna have a little lesson from the Bible. Yes, Jeremy, what would you like to think #4? OK on the front, OK #4 Perhaps with this one we'll sing just the first and last verses. OK of #4. Nsnoise. One more who would like to give out the last one. Yes, Joshua. 41 Good, I'm glad you've chosen one on the back for the children here. Oh, 41 very nice around the throne of God in heaven will many children thing 41. Nsnoise.

Nsnoise. Well, it's a real privilege on Lord's Day morning to come together and sing, and this song is telling us about a future day in heaven where there'll be many children. And what, what's one thing that we're going to be doing? Singing, right? So this morning we could sing a few songs about the Lord Jesus, but there's going to come a day, one day when, when we're up in heaven and forever and ever, we'll be around the throne singing. And our prayer is that each one of the children that's here this morning will be there in that day. Singing to the Lord Jesus. OK, now I have a little lesson that I brought along this morning. But before we do that, if there's any children here that have spent some time this week memorizing a verse. If they would like to they we perhaps can make a few minutes for. One or two or three or four children that want to say a verse. There's a lot, a lot of people here this morning, probably more than you're used to, right? When you say your verses back at home, is there anyone that's brave enough to stand up and say a verse? Would you like to stand up first? Being justified freely by His grace through the Redemption. That is in Christ Jesus, Romans 3:24. Very good, thank you. Anybody else? Let's see anybody. Do you want to say your verse, Joseph? You can stand up and say it. OK, honey. OK. Thank you. Anybody else? You wanna say your first name? OK. Thank you. OK, well it's probably others that have memorized versus It's good to memorize God's Word, isn't it? To hide it in our heart. We heard about that yesterday in the readings. We should make ourselves familiar with God's Word. OK, I brought along with me this morning a little lesson that I hope helps the children remember some a story from God's Word. I brought along something here. I wonder what's this? One of the little children can tell me what? What's this? I don't know all your names, so I'm going to have to point if that's OK. What what? What do I have here? A Bible. Very good. I hope each one, I'm sure each one of you children probably have your own Bible. Maybe not with you this morning. That's OK. But we're going to open up God's Word, the Bible. And I have in mind the story that includes in the story a little child, a

little child. And I think I'm wondering if someone can think of a story in God's Word that includes a little child. There's more than one. Are you thinking of one? Samuel very good. I thought of that one this morning. And Samuel was a young boy. And remember the Lord's, there was a the Lord spoke to him at night and at first he didn't recognize the voice who it was. And finally he went to Eli and Eli told him or Eli recognized that it must be the voice of the Lord. And so Samuel did what Eli told him to do. And when the voice came, he said, speak Lord, for thy servant heareth. Samuel was just a young boy. Do you think the Lord Jesus can speak to even young children this morning?

Yeah, I think so. And if, you know, if you talk to the Lord Jesus in prayer or if you read His Word, he can speak to us through His Word and we ought to listen like Samuel did. How about another one? Anybody else think of a story from God's Word that has a little child in it? Yes, Graham. That's right, Graham said. Moses and the bull rushes. That's very good. Yes, Moses was a young, very young. He was even what we'd say, a baby. And he was placed in bulrushes and the Lord watched over him, too. OK, I'm thinking of a story the that includes a child, and it was a little girl. We've had two boys. I wonder if who can anybody think of a story in the Bible of a little girl, Sally? The girl who got sick? Yes, there's several in there in the in the Lord Jesus healed young girls that got sick. I'm thinking of a story in the Old Testament of a young girl that got taken from her home. Can you you know what it is? Very good. That's exactly what I was thinking of. Remember, there was the story of Naaman. And Naaman was an honorable man, it says among the Syrians. He was a great man. And his wife had a little maiden, a little girl, and she was taken captive from Israel and taken to this foreign land. But you know, she spoke a a word to Naaman's wife and it brought great blessing to Nam. And Naman was a leper. What's that mean? What's the leper? Anybody tell me what a leper is? Can you tell me what a leper is? What? That's right, very good. A kind of disease on our skin. At least that's where it shows up initially big spots. And there's no cure for leprosy. Once you have it, understand that you'll have it for life. But only the Lord can cure. And it was a miracle. But that little maiden spoke a word and told naman of a prophet that could bring blessing. And so that's another example of a little child in the in the. In the Bible and how the Lord used a little child to speak and it brought blessing. OK, I'm I have in mind a story in the in the Gospel of John and I have in here a few items and I'm wondering if one of the children would like to come up and pick one of the items out. Come on up. You come on up and and choose one item and you can tell us what it is, OK? What's that? That's right, a little roll. Thank you. OK, another one. We have 7 objects in here. Graham, would you like to come up please and choose something? Maybe. Thank you. Another roll. Just about like the first one, right? Try and set this so everyone can see it. OK, it's someone else. There is something other than a role in here, I can tell you that. Lastly, would you like to come up? Someone else you can come on up at the same time. What's that, Leslie? Another roll. Well, you come on up. N. So far we have 4. OK. Would you like to come on up and choose something out of the bag I have here? Boy, what's that? Yeah. How many is that in total now? 5 rolls. OK, very good. Now let's see what else we have in here. These are kind of small, but let's see and would you like to come up? You need to pick something out. You can look in there. You don't have you can. OK, what's that? A candy fish. You're right, it is a candy fish. But we'll just for the, for the purpose of our lesson this morning, we're gonna stay at the small fish, OK? And I have one other object in here. Let's see. Jeremy, would you like to come on up? What do you think's in there before you look? Really. How did you know I didn't tell you before? Very good. You know, I think what story I'm going to talk about, don't you? Sure enough, it's another small fish. Thank you. OK, I have in mind the story in John's Gospel, chapter 6, and I'm just gonna open up my Bible to that passage and just read a few verses from it. And this is the story about how the Lord Jesus fed some people. And I'm going to ask you a few questions, and I hope that we can glean a little bit from this story for the children this morning. John's Gospel chapter 6. And we're going to start with verse 5, and I'm going to read down to verse 12.

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, When shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, 200 penny worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, Seth unto him. There is a lad here which has five barley loaves and two small fishes. What but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place, so the men sat down a number about 5000. And Jesus took the loaves. And when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down, and likewise of the fishes as much as they would when they were filled. He said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled 12 baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth, that prophet that should come. Into the world. OK, we have a story here about the Lord Jesus when he was on earth. And how many people were in this company in our story? How many people were there? 500 yeah, there was that, but there was more than that too. How many in total? What? Sorry, Jonathan. 5000 minutes. Jonathan says 5000 men. That's right. So there was probably a lot more than 5000 in total because it says there was also women and children. That's a large company. Have you ever been in a crowd where there's 5000 people? I don't know that I ever have, at least consciously thinking about it. How many people you think are in this room this morning? I wonder if one of the children would like to take a guess. If you think, you know how many people in the room this morning, Graham 300 You know, you're perhaps about right. I don't know if there's quite that many, but umm, about 300. Well, here was a situation where the Lord Jesus was out and there was over 5000. There's 5000 men and there's women and children. A large company perhaps. Perhaps there was 20,000 people and. What? What was the problem? What was the situation that faced? It wasn't a problem for the Lord Jesus, but it was a situation here. What was lacking William? That's right, they did not have enough food I want Did everyone of you have breakfast this morning? Put up your hand if you had breakfast this morning. I think everyone of the children had breakfast this morning. Well that's good and I think probably you are used to having breakfast every morning, right, And lunch and supper too. 3 meals a day. Yes, we have lots to be thankful for, but here there was a large crowd and. There wasn't enough to eat. Has anybody ever been in that situation where you've been hungry and you haven't had anything to eat? I think I have to shake my head. You know, we, we live in a land of plenty where we take for granted a meal. It's very often very easy to to obtain. But here there was 5000 people and how many of those people had brought food along to eat? Put up your hand if you know the answer. How many people had food to eat? Can you tell me? Three Well, the Bible says here there was one lad, 1 little boy. And that's what we want to learn a little bit about this morning, about this young boy he brought along. What did he bring along? Well, we've heard this is the the object before us, right? He had five loaves and two small fishes and it says they were barley loaves. Now I wonder if one of the children was listening and meeting yesterday. Do you remember, does anybody remember hearing anything about barley yesterday, Graham? Graham says it's easier than growing wheat, but it's like wheat. Well, that may be true. I'm not a grain farmer myself. What else did we learn about barley? Remember route? It was at the beginning of barley harvest. Anybody else remember anything we learned about barley yesterday?

Gabbar Lee was a grain that was for the poor people, or is an easier grain to obtain, perhaps. And so it says here that there were five barley loaves, and that's what the the bread was made of. Now these loaves are small loaves, but I think they're probably made of wheat flour. But we'll pretend that they're barley loaves. And you know, it shows us that this young boy, perhaps he was poor, perhaps he was poor, he just

had five barley loaves. And but, you know, the Lord Jesus was able to use what he had. And you know, little children, and for all of us too, but especially for the children this morning, the Lord Jesus, if we bring something, if we have something, no matter what it is, even if we're, if it's not very much as it were, perhaps you say, well, there's not much I can do for the Lord Jesus when I'm at home with my mom and dad, there's not much I can do. But you know, even if you just obey your parents, that can be honoring to the Lord Jesus, right? What else is something that you can do? At home that would be honoring to the Lord Jesus. Can anybody? Give me another example. What are you thinking of? Obeying your parents? Very good. That's right. It's very important, isn't it? And perhaps your mom gives you a job to do, whatever it may be. And if you obey, that's honoring to the Lord Jesus. That's what were you thinking about? A Bible, reading your Bible. Very good. That's right. Certainly we can read our Bibles at home. And if you're too young to read, you can ask your mom and dad to read it to you. Probably most of the children here this morning have parents that are going to be glad to read you the Bible. That's another thing that we can do well. We see that this boy brought. Umm, 5 loaves and two small fishes. Now what did the Lord Jesus do with those? What did the Lord Jesus do with just five barley loaves and two fishes? Yeah. He made more out of it. And what's that called? I certainly can't do that this morning. Only the Lord Jesus could do that. And what is it, Jonathan? A miracle. Very good. Yes, it was a miracle. From just five small loaves and two fishes, he fed 5000 men and women and children. And it was a miracle. And how much was leftover at the end, Graham? How many? 5 baskets. Well, let's look. Let's see. What what were you going to say, Christy? 12 baskets, I think Christie's right. Yes, right. There was 12 baskets left over. There was more leftover, I think than when they started. Certainly all this could probably fit in one basket, right. But I. So they had done distributing to all that were there. There was 12 baskets leftover. And you know, that would show us that the Lord Jesus, if we allow him to work in our lives, if we obey him, read his word like we've been hearing, then he'll bring blessing and it'll be a great, far greater blessing than we could ever have on our own. You know, if that lad had a brought those that meal, perhaps he could have fed a few others other than himself, right? If he had been willing, he could have maybe fed. Two or three people around him or four or five, or maybe they could have spread it out a little bit more to 10 or 20, but certainly not 20,000 people. No, only the Lord Jesus could bring in a blessing like that. And so if we're willing to follow him through, to read his word, to obey, then he'll bring a far greater blessing than we could ever do on our own. And so for the children here this morning that know the Lord Jesus as your Savior. Want to encourage you to follow the Lord Jesus and to obey what you know from God's Word. Perhaps your parents read the Bible every morning, and here and there you can pick up a little for those who are older, you can understand more. And let's follow what God has given us in his Word and obey. And so the Lord Jesus got brought great blessing. You know what says at the beginning of the story that perhaps it's not in this account, but in another gospel there's another account of the same incident. And it says that the Lord Jesus looked out on the great multitude, and he had compassion. He had compassion. What's that? What's compassion? Who one of the children here can tell me this morning? What? Give me a definition or what? What do you when you hear the word compassion, what do you think about? We should be compassionate. What does that mean? Do you know? Merciful. That's part of it, perhaps. Yes, that would include it.

What else? Were you gonna say something, Jeremy? Pity. Yes, that would be, uh, another word that we could use to describe compassion, to enter into the feelings of others, right? The Lord Jesus looked out on that large multitude. He knew that they didn't have any food. It says umm, in the portion, umm. This He said to prove him, for he himself knew what he would do. The Lord Jesus knew full well what He was going to do, but he looked out and He had compassion on that great multitude and He had a care for them. You know, that's another thing that we can even as young children, as young people, we can learn to have a care for others. If you see your brother or your sister, or maybe it's the neighbor next door and they get hurt, or perhaps they have a need, let's have a care for them to enter into their feelings and show love and kindness. And perhaps by by doing so, we have a neighbor. Next door, who doesn't know the Lord Jesus? Maybe you have a friend next door and you play with them and they don't know the Lord Jesus. Well, you show kindness and show compassion and enter into their circumstances. You can win them for the Lord Jesus. Well, I trust that we've gleaned some practical lessons from umm, this story and how the Lord Jesus had a care and an interest in even a young lad. And he certainly has an interest in each one of the children here this morning. And there's going to be that day like we sang in that hymn, it says many children around the throne of God in heaven. You know, it doesn't say all the children. And there's a reason. And that's because children, you have a responsibility to trust the Lord Jesus. And if you do, you'll be among that many that are around the throne in that coming day. OK, our time is almost gone. We'll sing one more short hymn, and then we'll pose in prayer. Who would like to choose it? Yes. What would you like to think? 35 Oh, number five, OK #5 on the front. We'll sing all of #5 together. Nsnoise. And. All right. Thank you. Nsnoise. I NIN. GRA N forever. Lord and oligarchy fires. When I'm going to get a red tomorrow I'm going to have a man that's going to be great. But I suppose, I suppose I don't know.

5439 Three. OK, let's just bow our heads and we'll close with prayer.

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