[Narrator] In today's story, Jesus shows and tells us that everybody matters to God. Our story happens in a small village in Galilee. Galilee is where Jesus spent most of his time, especially when he was starting his ministry. Jesus and his followers have just come to the village for the night, they are very tired and are looking for places to rest. Anna and Judith have heard about Jesus and hope that he might bless their children. Will he? Let's see.

In our story are Anna and Judith, two friends who live in the small village. They both have young children. Next are James and John who are two of Jesus' first disciples. They have been following Jesus since he started his ministry. other followers of Jesus are also present, and of course there is Jesus himself.

[scene] Judith is with her child or children. Anna charges in.

[Anna] Judith, let's go and see the Rabbi who just came in with his followers.

[Judith] Maybe later when our husbands come home. You know how Rabbi's are when they are around women and we'd have to bring our children too. Rabbi's never like having Women around and they like Children even less.

[Anna] No, this Jesus is different. He has women followers and he is always talking about something he calls the kingdom of God. I've heard from my friends in the village down the road that he might even think that children matter, at least a little.

[Judith] Alright, Jesus and his followers probably won't be here for long anyway and if I wait I could miss him.

[Scene] Group is gathered around Jesus, Judith, Anna with children walk up. James and John move over to block them.

[James] The Rabbi is very tired, it's been a long day and he can't see you.

[Judith] I was hoping that he could take a second and bless our children.

[James] He just doesn't have time.

[Anna] But I thought that in the kingdom that Jesus keeps talking about that everyone was welcome.

[John] Look, we don't have time for this.

[Scene] Jesus sees what is going on, leaves group and hurries over to Judith and Children.

[Jesus] Could I please hold your child?

[Judith] Yes, and could you take a second and maybe bless her and her friend too?

[Jesus] Of course.

[Scene] Jesus takes child, turns to group including James and John.

[Jesus] You know, in order to become a part of God's kingdom you have to be like this child here. When we think that we matter more to God because we are older, or smarter, or stronger than some other people, well if we think that we just can't be in the kingdom. We all matter to God, God loves us all and doesn't love someone more than someone else.

[Scene] Jesus blesses children and returns them to Judith and Anna.

[Narrator] Yes, Jesus welcomed women, and men and even children. He did that because he knew that everybody matters to God, and that when we really understand that everybody matters to God, well then everybody can matter to us as well.