

From '**Planting Spiritual Seeds of Hope**' Bible Study by Myra Green
Taught in conjunction with the musical 'My Forever Friend

I was twelve years old when I came 'to know' the Lord, even though I had been visiting church and going to Sunday school, off and on, with my friend Debbie since I was about six. I knew about Jesus, but I didn't know Him until I was twelve. Only through a personal relationship with the God of the Universe can we begin to know His love and His will for us. Debbie had Jesus as her personal Lord and Savior and now I do too, because she shared him with me.

Mark 10:13-16 People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

The children didn't just want to hear about Jesus, they wanted Him. They wanted to touch Him to have Him touch them. Jesus put his hands on them and through this act they were blessed. Jesus personally touched them. When we tell people all about Jesus, but fail to give them the opportunity to enter into a personal relationship with him we rob them of the 'Hands on Blessing'. We cannot know Jesus is real and alive by just learning about him. He needs to personally reveal Himself in us. And he does this through the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus' own disciples didn't fully know Him, though they walked with Him for three years. The disciples needed Jesus himself to reveal his true nature to them, though they had studied about him and walked with him, they did not understand the truth of who He is. They too, needed the Holy Spirit to understand the truth.

John 14:15-20 "If you love me, you will obey whatever I command. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."

Like the children Jesus touched we need more than just intellectual knowledge of Jesus. We want to hear his voice and feel his hand on us. We want to experience the love of the Father in Jesus His Son through the power of the Holy Spirit.