

City LG - July 20-21, 2019

Bible Story: This One's for the Children (Jesus and the Little Children) • *Mark 10:13-16 (supporting Mark 9:36-37)*

Bottom Line: God can give you the strength to be gentle.

Memory Verse: *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6, NIV

CG: Countdown Video

WORSHIP: Zeal and Look to You

Supplies Needed: Small Teacup (1 per Campus), and a Bible

"Hi, everyone! I brought something really special with me today: this beautiful teacup. It's pretty, but it's also fragile, which is just a fancy way of saying it could break easily. It's very delicate.

Walk around on the stage while holding the teacup with both hands as you're talking.

"When I walk around and I'm holding my teacup, I hold it with both hands. Why do you think I do that? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! I don't want to drop it.

"Also, when I'm holding my teacup, do you think I walk carefully, or do you think I run around? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! I try to walk really carefully.

"What if I want to set it down? Do you think I could just toss my teacup over to that table over there, or should I set it down gently? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! I would definitely want to set it down gently.

"Let me ask you this: why do I need to hold my teacup with both hands, walk carefully, and set it down gently? *(Pause for responses.)* You are exactly right! I need to be gentle when I'm holding my teacup because if I don't, it might get damaged or broken.

Set the teacup down.

"Have you ever thought about how people can be like that teacup? We need to be careful how we treat people so they don't get hurt or sad. Nobody understood that more than Jesus did.

"You see, Jesus was always looking out for people who were seen as unimportant. He was always showing them His great love. Believe it or not, at that time, people actually didn't think of children as being very important. But Jesus sure did! One time He brought a child in front of His disciples and said this.

Open the Bible to Mark 9:37 (NIV) and read.

"Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me."

"You know who else thinks kids are really important? Your leaders sure do! They hang out with you here in The City. They help teach you all about God and how much He loves you. Isn't it so awesome that they take the time to be with you?

"In fact, I was thinking they could help us share what happened in our story. Don't worry, leaders, it'll be easy. I just need you to read from the Bible."

Walk into the audience with this script.

“Let’s see what happened next. Stories about Jesus were spreading quickly. People heard how Jesus was so kind and gentle with children. So here’s what they did.”

Go over to a leader. Hand him the (marked) Bible and tell him/her to read (Mark 10:13).

LEADER: *“People were bringing little children to Jesus. They wanted him to place his hands on them to bless them” (NirV).*

“Thanks, [leader’s name]. *(To the audience)* The disciples began to get frustrated because they didn’t understand why Jesus would take time to pay attention to children. The disciples told the parents and children to stop, because they thought Jesus was too important to be troubled with a bunch of kids.”

“But Jesus LOVED all of those little children! So how do you think He felt when His disciples were trying to get the children to leave? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“Right—He wasn’t happy about it at all. He was angry! Listen to what Jesus said.”

Go over to a leader with his/her hand raised. Have him/her read (Mark 10:14b).

LEADER: *“Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to people like them” (NirV).*

“Wow! Jesus also said this.”

“What I’m about to tell you is true. Anyone who will not receive God’s kingdom like a little child will never enter it” (NirV).

“Then what do you think happened?”

“Then he took the children in his arms. He placed his hands on them to bless them” (NirV).

“Amazing! Jesus showed everyone that day how much He loves children and how valuable kids are to Him. He was saying that everyone should believe in Him the way a child does.

“And guess what. Jesus still loves children! He loves YOU! Jesus wants to have a relationship with you. Jesus thinks You’re important. He thinks You’re very special.

Go back onto the stage and pick up the teacup.

“That kind of reminds me of this beautiful teacup. We know this teacup is very valuable, so we treat it very carefully, don’t we? Well, Jesus sees YOU as someone really special. He is gentle with you because He loves you. He sees just how valuable you are! That’s what our story is all about today. Let’s watch!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 10:00)

“Jesus used His power and authority to bless the children, even though other people didn’t really see those children as being very important. Jesus told the people that they should believe in Him the way children do: with simple, honest, true faith.

“Jesus gave us an important example of gentleness that we can follow today. He treated the people around Him like they were important. We can treat people with gentleness, too, if we remember to ask God for help.

“See, we might not always FEEL like being gentle. We might not want to make the effort. We might feel like saying something mean because we feel frustrated or annoyed. But here’s the really good news.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God can give you the strength to be gentle.

“It’s true. He can! Jesus is gentle with us, and we can learn to be gentle with others by following His example. And remember, we can always ask God for help. In fact, let’s pray and ask Him to help us right now!”

Pray: “Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for being so gentle with us. It’s so good to know that ALL of us are important to You! Help us to follow Jesus’ example of gentleness as we show gentleness to others. Help us to show others they’re important by the way we treat them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“It takes strength to be gentle. That’s certainly what Jesus showed that day when He blessed the children. Everyone else treated the kids like they weren’t very important, but Jesus treated them like they were SO valuable. Why? Because He loved them, just like He loves us. ALL of us are valuable and special to Him—whether we’re 6 years old or 46 years old!

“With God’s help, we can show gentleness, too. Remember this.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God can give you the strength to be gentle.

“He can help you power up with His Spirit. So ask Him for help whenever you feel frustrated or angry, whenever you feel like bragging or saying something unkind. Ask God to help you show gentleness instead. And let others know you care by treating them with love, kindness, and respect.

“Let’s take a look at our Memory verse for the month. It’s Philippians 1:6.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns (NIV).”

“You see? God is working in you always, just like He’s working in me and just like He’s working in your Small Group Leaders. He’s helping all of us to be more like Him. He’s doing great things IN us so that we can change the world around us.

“Before we head to Small Group and talk some more about what it means to be gentle, let’s worship God with our offering!”

Offering Time:

“Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else’s life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called ‘Missions of Hope’ to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them.”

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

“(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya and is part of a really great place called Mission of Hope International! Here’s a picture of Missions of Hope!”

CG: Missions of Hope JPEG

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! (*show offering container*.)”

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 5:00)

Dismiss to Small Groups