

Alley Rundown—July 24th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Gentle on My Mind (Jesus and the Little Children) • *Mark 10:13-16*

Today's Key Question: Why is it sometimes hard to be gentle?

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

Monthly 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 (NIRV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“How is everyone today? Quick question, and I think I know the answer—have any of you ever stopped to think about what the word ‘gentleness’ means? Yeah, I didn’t think so. It’s not exactly the kind of thing that you spend hours of your life pondering.

“Based on what we see from the people around us, maybe we should think more about being gentle. It would sure make relationships at school a lot different, right? But let’s not get ahead of ourselves. Let’s try something first. Turn to someone near you and tell them what *you* think it means when someone is described as ‘gentle.’

Take a few minutes for kids to talk to one another.

“What do you think? Anyone have any ideas about what it means to be gentle?”

Have a few kids give their thoughts.

“Interesting. Those are some great thoughts. Let’s keep thinking about this.

“It’s one thing to be gentle with, like, something breakable like an egg, a newly finished LEGO® Death Star, a stack of fragile plates. It’s also understandable to be gentle with young things like a puppy, a kitten, a newborn baby. But what does it mean to be gentle with your family or with your friends? Is it possible to be gentle in the way that you live?”

“That sounds like weakness, doesn’t it? Sometimes ‘gentleness’ is considered weak, or soft, not strong or assertive . . . but is it *really* weak? Is it *really* soft?”

“If I call you gentle, is that an insult or a compliment?”

“Hard questions, I think. By taking a look in the Bible, we just might find some answers. The Bible isn’t just a collection of made-up stories written in a confusing language by old, dead people – these were experiences that happened to real people who were inspired by God to write it all down. And we get to learn from these words literally thousands of years later. Let’s take a look with the help of this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:00)

“If we follow Jesus’ example in this story, we can switch our gears from uncaring to ultra-compassionate. We can go from busy to being loving. Thankfully, we don’t have to do this on our own.

When we follow Jesus, God's Spirit can give us the strength to do that.

"We can be strong enough to be gentle . . . how about that?"

"As you head to your Small Groups, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

"Why is it sometimes hard to be gentle?" Think about the times when you're impatient, losing your cool, or just generally annoyed—times you're being asked to do things for others when you don't want to. How can you respond in a way that is gentle, even when it's difficult? You'll talk more about this with your Small Group, but before you head out, let's pray and ask God to give us the strength to be gentle when we need it most. Let's pray.

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard.
After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.*

OFFERING:

As you may know, all this Summer we are raising money to dig water wells in the Country of Malawi. When you bring your offering in, not only are you showing Kindness, but you are also helping many people in Malawi to have clean water to drink and cook with. So if you brought offering today, you can bring it up now!

CG: Malawi Wells Pictures