

Alley SG—July 24th, 2022

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

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

Today's Key Question: Why is it sometimes hard 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)

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Paper, markers

What You Do:

- Hand out the paper and markers.
- Guide kids to think about what it would have been like to be able to visit with Jesus and maybe even sit on His lap. What would it have looked like to experience Jesus' gentleness?
- Give kids a few minutes to draw what they think the scene with Jesus and the children looked like. They can illustrate Jesus hugging kids, putting His arms around them, kids sitting on His lap, etc.
- As kids finish their drawings, ask them to turn them into you.
- Then form two teams.
- Explain that you will read Mark 10:13-16, today's Bible story.
- You'll pause several times in the story and hold up one of their pictures of Jesus and the children.
- Teams will then race to arrange themselves to look exactly like the images in the picture.
- Some of the pictures might only need two people and some will need more.
- They should rotate team members and take turns posing so that everyone takes at least two turns.
- After the story has been read, ask:
 - In what ways did Jesus show gentleness? (*He made time for the kids, He made sure the adults made a way for the kids to get to Him, He took them in His arms and blessed them*)
 - How can being gentle be a sign of strength? Why does it take strength to be gentle? (*You have to hold back your physical strength or work harder to choose gentle words*)
 - What are some opportunities you might have this week to demonstrate gentleness?

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Jenga Blocks (1 Set per Group)

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Place one Jenga Block on a hard surface in the middle of the circle.
- Challenge kids to take turns adding one block to the top of the stack.
- With each kid's turn, invite them to add ONE word to an ongoing description of GENTLENESS.
- Assist kids in getting started by kicking it off with, "Gentleness is . . ."

- If the sentence runs its course or kids run out of ideas, begin a new sentence and continue. Some options are listed below.
 - Gentleness is not . . .
 - Gentle things/animals/people are . . .

What You Say: “God wants us to be gentle with those around us. We shouldn’t be angry or in a hurry with others. Let’s remember to take time for others and show them gentleness.”

Extra Time Variation: Play the Traditional Game of Jenga with your Group taking turns until the Tower Falls!

3. Bubble Trouble

What You Need: Paper plates (1 per kid), bubbles (1-2 per Group), plastic tablecloth (1 per group)

What You Do:

- *Put down tablecloth in the area leader will be standing blowing bubbles for floor protection.*
- Give each kid a paper plate.
- Explain that you will quickly blow bubbles around the area. Their job is to collect as many bubbles on their plates as they can in the span of 30 seconds.
- Ask kids to keep track of the highest number of bubbles they had on their plate at one time (not necessarily what they have at the end of the time) then declare a winner.
- Repeat as time allows.

What You Say:

“It took a gentle touch to catch a bubble without popping it. **[Transition] We’re going to be talking about gentleness today—another fruit of God’s Spirit. What you learn today won’t improve your bubble skills, but it will help you improve something even better: your PEOPLE skills.**”

4. Discussion Questions

- Why is gentleness actually a strength?
- When might gentle words be difficult?
- Who do you know is a good example of gentleness?
- If you’re not gentle with your words and the way you treat others, what could be some of the consequences of your actions?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Say:

“Dear God, what a great example of gentleness we see in the way Jesus treated the little children in our story today! Jesus was concerned for them and cared about them even though the disciples would have chosen to send them away. Help us to remember that in Your eyes, EVERY person is valued and loved. As we go through our weeks, remind us to let our gentleness be evident to all. And, like a wave, let our gentle actions and words make a difference in the world around us. In Jesus’ name, amen.”