

## City LG—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.

**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)

**REMINDER: Kids will need to be grouped into Small Groups to begin Service**

**WORSHIP: Unshakeable and Standing in Your Light**

"Hi, everyone! Today we're finding out how to makes waves with gentleness. Gentleness is about more than petting a fuzzy kitten . . . or balancing a yardstick with cups of water on it. I mean, you have to be gentle for those things, too. But you can also be gentle with the way you treat other people. That's something Jesus did. Which is what we're looking at in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) Before we make too big of a wave in our Story today, I have a question for you to discuss in your Small Groups...

**SLIDE: Question ("How should you treat other people?")**

3 minutes on the clock! Talk it out with your Groups!

**CG: Question Video (Runtime: 3:00)**

"Great job everyone! I heard some really good answers from you all."

"Let's get into our Story today. As Jesus traveled, teaching and healing people, crowds gathered everywhere He went.

*Take a few steps into the audience.*

"Let's see. Here I go. (*waving to the kids*) Hello, crowds of people!"

"People could see that there was something really special about Jesus. On this particular day, parents brought their children to Jesus, hoping He would bless them. But there was something standing in the way. Or should I say, there were some PEOPLE standing in the way. Jesus' very own Disciples! Can you believe that?"

"It wasn't that the disciples were trying to be mean. They just thought Jesus was too important to be bothered with children. They figured He would want to spend His time talking to adults instead."

"When Jesus saw this, He was angry! He told the disciples that He wanted to see the children.

"I'll read you what He said.

*Open the Bible to Mark 10:14-15 (NIRV) and read.*

*"Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. God's kingdom belongs to people like them. 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.*

(*to the kids*) "Then Jesus took the children in His arms. He placed His hands on them to bless them."

*Give a few high-fives and fist bumps.*

"Let's learn a little bit more about this Story with the help of this week's video. Let's watch!"

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:00)**

“On that day when Jesus welcomed the children, He made sure His disciples understood that every single person is special and valuable to God. Jesus is strong, AND He is gentle.

“So do you think we can treat people with gentleness, too? Do you think we can treat every person like they’re special and valuable? I think we can, because we have the help of God’s Spirit. Let’s learn this week’s Bottom Line!”

**CG: Bottom Line Video (Runtime: 1:00)**

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

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

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us live like Jesus, and treat others with gentleness.”

**PRAY:** “Dear God, thank You for this story that shows us what gentleness looks like. Jesus’ disciples thought He was too busy and important to spend time with kids. But Jesus knew that children were valuable, too. Jesus treated EVERYONE like they were valuable. That’s what we want to do, too. Please help us be gentle with others. Through Your Spirit, give us the strength we need to be gentle. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“It’s not always easy to live with gentleness. But when we put our faith in Jesus, we have the help of God’s Holy Spirit. The Spirit can help us be gentle with the people God has placed in our lives. That’s a great way we can make waves and change the world around us!

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

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

“Think about the way Jesus treated children that day. It just goes to show just how much Jesus loves people—ALL people! Jesus really cared about the children. He made time for them, and made sure they felt loved and welcomed.

“It works the same way with us today. The way we respond to other people is really important . . . because it shows them how much they matter to us. If we’re not careful, our actions can show that we only really care about ourselves and what’s going on in OUR lives. But if we follow Jesus’ example, we can show people that we truly care. We can show others that we know how valuable they are by the way we treat them.

“I know how good it feels when someone really listens to ME and cares about what I’M going through. So that’s something I want to do for others. I know **I should treat others the way I want to be treated.** That means living each day with gentleness!

**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, you are helping many people in Malawi to have clean water to drink and cook with. So, if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now!”

**CG: Malawi Wells Pictures**