

July Week 4
Backyard
Making Waves

July 24

CRAFT

Jesus and the Children

SUPPLIES: Let the Children come to me page, children cut out, crayons, glue sticks

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children join you at the table and pass out one sheet to each child.**
 - *“Hello, friends! Today, we heard about a time Jesus was teaching and lots of people wanted to see Him. Many parents wanted their children to be close to Jesus, but the disciples wouldn’t let them get close.*
 - *Let’s pause our story right there and let’s first color Jesus and the beautiful scenery around him.”*

- ⇒ **Pass out a children cut out. Have children color and then use glue sticks to attach to the page.**
 - *“So we’ve got Jesus, but where are the children?! Here they are! Let’s color the children.*
 - *Those kids look great! Now let’s glue them right next to Jesus!*
 - *When Jesus heard the disciples tell the children to go away, He gently said ‘Let the little children come to me!’ Jesus let the children come right up front. He hugged them and was kind and talked to them.”*

- ⇒ **Complete activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus**
 - *“Jesus was being gentle, and Jesus wants to help us be gentle, too. Jesus can help us choose to be gentle!*
 - ***Who can help you do everything?***
 - ***Jesus can help me do everything!”***

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ACTIVITY #1

Gentle, Not Gentle

SUPPLIES: several soft and hard items, such as: a cotton ball, a rock, a sponge, a pom pom, a plastic cup, a wooden block, a toy truck, a plush friend, etc.

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **This activity can be done from tables/centers or gathered on the floor in the center of the room.**
 - *“Friends, gather round. I have a bin full of items here.”*
- ⇒ **Hold up one item at a time and ask kids if they think it will be gentle or not gentle when it falls. Hold the item up and drop. Determine if it was gentle or not gentle.**
 - *“We are going to play Gentle/Not Gentle. Some items fall gently and others fall hard – they are not gentle. I am going to hold up one item at a time and when I do, I want you to tell me if you think it will be gentle or not gentle when it falls.”*
- ⇒ **Determine Gentle/Not Gentle with each item.**
- ⇒ **Finish the activity and bring it back to Jesus.**
 - *“That was fun! Friends, we can be gentle, too. We can use gentle hands, move slower, or talk quietly to practice being gentle.”*
 - *When Jesus is our friend forever, he can help us to be gentle! He can help us do everything! Friends, tell me....*
 - ***Who can help you do everything? Jesus can help me do everything!”***

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ACTIVITY #2

Gentleness Look and Find

SUPPLIES: Assorted Feathers, Gentleness Story Stickers

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children in the center of the room.**

- *“Friends, do you know what this is? That’s right! It’s a feather. We are using the feather this week to symbolize GENTLENESS! We learned today in our true story that Jesus was gentle, and he wants us to be gentle, too! Remember, Gentleness is part of the fruit of the spirit that comes from knowing Jesus is our friend forever.*
- *I want you to close your eyes and I am going to hide the feathers around the room. Then, when I say to open them, go and find one feather and come back to the group and hold it in your hand.*

⇒ **Once every child has found a feather, have them hold them in their hand, stand up, and gently drop it to the ground. Then practice other ways to be gentle with the feather.**

- *“You found the feathers! Nice work! Now let’s all get up and hold our feathers up in the air and watch them gently fall to the ground.*
- *Nice job, friends! We can all be gentle. When I say, ‘who can be gentle?’ I want you to say, ‘I can be gentle!’*
- *Now let’s all use one finger and softly touch the feather. We can be gentle. Who can be gentle? I can be gentle!*
- *Now, let’s stand up and walk slowly while we hold the feather gently in the palm of our hands. Can you walk gently with me? Nice work!*
- *Who can be gentle? I can be gentle!”*

⇒ **Repeat as many times as children are interested. Have the children place their feather back in the bin and give each child a gentleness story sticker.**

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“Friends, we can be gentle like Jesus because Jesus can help us. I am so thankful God sent Jesus to be our friend forever because Jesus can help us do everything!*
- ***Who can help you do everything?***
- ***Jesus can help me do everything!”***

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ACTIVITY #3

Fruit of the Spirit Dance Party +

Memory Verse Review

SUPPLIES: Fruit of the Spirit Picture Cards (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness), Summer '22 CD

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children in the center of the room.**

- *"Friends! All summer long we are learning about something called the fruit of the spirit. Each week we are going learn about a different way that Jesus can help us! Do you remember how Jesus can help us this week? He can help us choose GENTLENESS! (hold up the feather card). When we know Jesus, he can help us choose to be gentle like he was!*
- *Now we know that when we trust Jesus, he can help us to (heart card) LOVE, he can also help us to have JOY (smiley card), he can help us to choose (teddy bear card) PEACE, he can help us to be (clock card) PATIENT, he can help us choose KINDNESS (hands holding heart card), he can help us show God's GOODNESS (candle card), he can help us show FAITHFULNESS (high five card), and he can help us choose GENTLENESS (feather card)! Jesus can help us do everything! Hey! That reminds me of our memory verse!"*

⇒ **Do memory verse all together in a variety of ways.**

- *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'" John 14:6*
 - *Now let's try it...*
 - *Super loud/Super quiet*
 - *Really Fast/Really Slow*
 - *Jumping up and down*
 - *Running in Place*
 - *All the boys/All the girls*
 - *Kids only/Teachers only*

⇒ **Have a dance party! Play Track 1 on Summer 2022 CD.**

- *"Let's get up and dance to our summer song! Can you try to remember the fruit of the spirit with me? Let's dance!"*

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *"Nice work, my friends!*
- ***Who can help you do everything? Jesus can help me do everything!***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY
JULY WEEK 4

SANITIZE HANDS AND PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

⇒ *God's Fruit in Me*, by Vince Rozier

REVIEW *(You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)*

⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line

- **Who can help you do everything?**
Jesus can help me do everything!

⇒ Memory Verse

- **"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'" John 14:6**

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

⇒ "Today, we are going to do something a little different. At the top of my paper/board it says, "Jesus said, let the little children come to me!" That's what Jesus said. So when I point to you I want you to **say your name** and I will write it down and connect your name back to Jesus!

- *Have each child say their name and write it down on the board/paper.*

⇒ Look at all your names! Jesus loves each of you so much. He loves all children. Jesus was gentle and he wants us to be, too. Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**:

- "Dear God, thank You for giving [child's name] Jesus to be [his/her] friend forever. Thank You for giving [child's name] Jesus to be [his/her] friend forever. (Continue with each child.) Jesus is gentle and wants all the little children to come to Him. I pray that (name each child) will all choose to follow Jesus and be His friend forever. In Jesus' name, amen."