



## WEEK THREE – JULY 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *This One's for the 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*

**Life App:** *What God is doing in you to change the world around you*

**Basic Truth:** *I should treat others the way I want to be treated.*

**Summary:** Next, we head to Mark 10:13–16 where Mark records a time when Jesus welcomed children, gave them His attention, and blessed them. Back then no one thought every highly of children, and what Jesus did would have shocked many who were watching. But Jesus taught that this is what the kingdom of God is all about, coming to God with the faith of a child.

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## EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

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### 1. Early Arriver Idea

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** “Flex It” Activity Page cards

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Set out the cards in the middle of your space.
- Challenge kids to work together to put the items in order of the amount of strength it takes to pick them up.
- If you have more time, encourage kids to do two different exercises and then determine which one requires the most strength. For example:
  - 10 push-ups vs. 10 sit-ups
  - 20 jumping jacks vs. 20 squats
- Explain that while most people think of the activities they just did as defining true strength, today’s Bible story is going to give us another definition of strength.

### 2. Balloon Toss

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Balloon; timer

**What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Tell kids that you will set the timer for a random amount of time, and kids will toss the balloon around the circle.
- When the timer goes off, the kid with the balloon tells everyone about the most famous person they’ve ever met and what happened, or they can tell about a famous person they’d like to meet and why. (Note: You might want to set a time limit on this.)
- Repeat until time is up or each kid gets a turn.
- If a kid has already had a turn but is holding the balloon when the timer goes off, they should continue to toss the balloon until it gets to a kid who hasn’t had a chance to share yet.

**What You Say:**

*“It was very interesting to hear about the famous people you’ve met or would like to meet. [Transition] Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll hear about some other kids who met someone VERY famous.”*

**Lead your group to the Large Group area.**

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## LARGE GROUP

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### OVERVIEW:

**Bottom Line:** *God can give you the strength to be gentle. Kids don’t always know how to respond with gentleness. But we want them to know that God can help them! We pray they’ll start to be aware of how they react when things don’t go their way and trust God to help them choose to be gentle.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. Jesus, May I?

#### [Bible Story Review]

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play*

**What You Need:** “Jesus and Disciples Cards” (Activity Page)

#### What You Do:

- Give the stack of cards to one kid. Tell him to shuffle them and hand them out so everyone gets a card.
- Tell kids to line up for a game of “Mother, May I?” where you will play the “Mother” role as “Jesus” and “Disciples.”
- Stand across the space from kids with your back turned to them.
  - The first kid will say, “Jesus, may I . . .” or “Disciples, may I . . .” depending on which one is on their card.
  - They can follow it up with any sort of movement, like “Jesus, may I take four big steps forward?” or “Disciples, may I skip toward you for three seconds?”
  - Your response as Jesus will always be that they can move toward you.
  - Your response as Disciples will always be that they either stay where they are or move backward.
  - Once they hear your response, kids move at the same time. (In other words, one kid does the asking, but they all get to move.)
  - After each kid has had a turn to ask (or when they make it all the way to you), one kid will quickly collect the cards, shuffle them, and hand them out again.
- Continue playing as long as interest holds or until all or most kids have reached you.

- They should quickly discover that Jesus will always let them move forward, which will speed things up. If kids are mature enough to handle it, let them decide who gets to do the asking each time.

### What You Say:

*“In our story today, the disciples didn’t want the kids to bother Jesus, but Jesus wanted them to come to Him. He wants YOU to come to Him, too. Jesus was gentle with the children, and that’s something that we can do, too—be gentle. **[Bottom Line]** God can give you the strength to be gentle. It’s not always easy to be gentle, but God will help you if you just ask!”*

## 2. Lantern Toss

### [Application Activity]

*Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** “Gentle Scenarios” Activity Page, paper lantern, timer

### What You Do:

- Instruct kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that this game will be like the “Balloon Toss” from earlier, but instead of a balloon, they’ll toss a paper lantern.
- Their goal is to not damage the lantern, so they’ll need to be gentle when they toss AND when they catch.
- When the timer goes off, they stop tossing. You’ll read a scenario from the Activity Page, and the kid holding the lantern will come up with a gentle response for that scenario.
- Repeat until time is up or each kid gets a turn.
- If a kid has already had a turn but is holding the lantern when the timer goes off, the group should continue to toss the lantern until it gets to a kid who hasn’t had a turn yet.

### What You Say:

*“It’s not always easy to be gentle, especially in situations like some of the ones we just heard. But thankfully, **[Bottom Line]** God can give you the strength to be gentle. **[Make It Personal]** (Tell kids about a time something happened and you wanted to respond in anger but chose to be gentle instead. OR you can tell how you didn’t respond in gentleness and how that affected your relationship with the other person.) Just like we have to be gentle with things like the paper lantern, we also have to be gentle with people and their hearts. We can really hurt someone when we don’t respond in gentleness. So let’s all remember to ask God to give us strength to be gentle.”*

## 3. Gentle Verses

### [Memory Verse Activity]

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** Construction paper, scissors, and tape/stapler, markers, Bibles

#### What You Do:

- Help kids carefully assemble their paper lanterns.
  - Note: See the instructions below if kids will be making paper Chinese lanterns.
- Guide kids to look up this month’s memory verse: Philippians 1:6.
- Challenge kids to use a marker to gently write all or part of the memory verse on their lanterns.
  - How to make a Chinese lantern:
    - Cut a one-inch strip off the long edge of the paper and set it aside. This will become the handle of the lantern.
    - Fold the paper in half lengthwise.
    - From the folded edge of the paper, cut lines straight toward the raw edge, but stop about an inch from the edge. Space these cut lines about an inch apart.
    - Unfold the paper, and bend it around to form a tube. Tape or staple the edges together.
    - Tape or staple the handle onto the top of the lantern.

#### What You Say:

*“Wow! You all were very gentle with those lanterns. It wasn’t easy to put them together or to write on them without damaging them, but you did a great job! This is often how it is in life. It’s not always easy to show gentleness with others, but it’s important to do so in order to not damage their feelings and hearts. And we can do it with God’s help! **[Bottom Line] God can give you the strength to be gentle.**”*

## 4. Pray and Dismiss

### [Prayer Activity]

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** Kids’ lanterns from the “Gentle Verses” activity

#### What You Do:

- Instruct kids to hold their lanterns as they pray.
- Guide them through the prayer below. Pause for 10–15 seconds in between instructions.

#### What You Say:

*“Tell God how awesome He is. (Pause.) Thank Jesus for being gentle. (Pause.) Think about a time when it might be hard for you to be gentle, or think about a person it’s sometimes hard for you to be gentle with, like a little sibling or someone you don’t get along with at school. (Pause.) Now ask God to help you be gentle during those times and/or with those people. (Pause.) In Jesus’ name, amen. Remember, **[Bottom Line] God can give you the strength to be gentle!**”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids what their lanterns helped them learn about today.***