



## WEEK THREE – JULY 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

**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

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Bag of “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
- As kids arrive, invite them to sit in a circle around the bag or box.
- Tell kids that the box contains some things that require strength to lift or play with, and some do not. They get to vote on whether or not each object requires strength!
- One at a time, invite kids to reach inside and pull out one of the items or cards. For each item, the group will vote on whether you need strength for this object or not.
- Encourage kids to flex their arms like they have huge muscles if they think the object does require strength.
- If the object does not require strength, encourage them to drop their arms by their sides and lean over as if they’re tired or weak.
- Some kids may choose to vote differently from each other. If this happens, pause and ask why or why not this object may require strength.

### 2. New Kind of Strength

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

**What You Need:** Clothespins, cotton balls, bag/box from Early Arriver activity

**What You Do:**

- Provide each kid with a clothespin.
- Spread cotton balls around your space where kids will be able to access them.
- When you say, “Go,” kids will pick up the cotton balls with their clothespins and place them in the bag/box.

**What You Say:**

*“Do you think it took strength to pick up those cotton balls with clothespins? (Allow time for responses.) You certainly don’t need big muscles, BUT it was still challenging, wasn’t it?”*

***[Transition] Today in Large Group we’re going to learn a different way to look at strength that we’ve never thought of before!”***

**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. Take a Breath

#### [Bible Story Review]

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

**What You Need:** Five-inch cardstock squares, one-inch cardstock circles, pipe cleaners, stapler, pony beads, straws, markers, hole punch, scissors, "Take a Breath" Activity Page

#### What You Do:

- Provide each kid with a cardstock square, a pipe cleaner, a pony bead, and a straw.
- Walk kids through the steps from the instruction page. For this age group, it's probably best to make the pinwheels together as a group, doing each step at the same time so kids can see the correct way to do it.
- Making the pinwheel has many steps, so assist kids as needed.
- Encourage your group to decorate their pinwheels using markers.
- Review the story scenarios below.
- After you read each scenario, instruct kids to blow very slowly into their pinwheel if they thought the people from the scenario were being gentle.
- Kids should blow fast and hard if the people needed help being gentle.
- Continue until all scenarios have been reviewed.
- Story Review Scenarios:
  - The disciples told the children to stay away from Jesus. (fast)
  - Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." (slow)
  - Jesus was kind and not frustrated with the children. (slow)
  - The disciples learned that Jesus loved the children and was gentle with them. (slow)
  - Tommy yanked the video game controller out of his brother's hand so he could have a turn playing! (fast)
  - Leah invited the new girl at school to sit with her at lunch even though her friends didn't want her to. (slow)

- Rhett passed the basketball to Johnny in the game even though he knew he'd probably miss the shot. (slow)
- Kia got angry with her mom because she didn't let her play at her friend's house. (fast)

### What You Say:

*"It takes a lot of strength to be gentle. Sometimes we need to take a deep breath and remember that **[Bottom Line]** God can give you the strength to be gentle. **[Make It Personal]** (Share a personal example of a time when it took a lot of your strength to be gentle with someone.) This week, I want you to use your pinwheels to remind you to take a big breath and pray to God, asking Him how you can be gentle. We can trust that He will help us!"*

## 2. Spoons

### [Memory Verse Activity]

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Plastic spoons, "Spoons" Activity Page cards, tape, Bible

### What You Do:

- Give each kid at least one spoon and one "Spoons" card. Depending on how many kids are in your group, some kids may need to have two spoons and two cards.
- Encourage them to share the tape and secure their card onto their spoon.
- Review Philippians 1:6 together and instruct kids to listen for the word they have on their spoon and lift it up in the air when it's said aloud.
- Repeat several times.

### What You Say:

*"You all are so close at memorizing our verse! Awesome job! I love that our verse reminds us that one day Jesus will return, and that will be the best day ever. Until then, we can remember that **[Bottom Line]** God can give you the strength to be gentle. When we show gentleness, we show others who God is."*

## 3. Pray and Dismiss

### [Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Ask your group to decide one way they will be gentle this week.

- As you say today's prayer, kids can silently fill in the blanks of your prayer with their specific idea of how they will be gentle.

**What You Say:**

*“God, I thank you that you will help me \_\_\_\_\_ this week. I know that when I \_\_\_\_\_ others will be able to see how very good of a God you are. I know that it may be tough to \_\_\_\_\_ but I also know that **[Bottom Line] God can give you the strength to be gentle.** I trust that You will provide everything I need to show Your love and gentleness each and every day. In Jesus’ name, amen!”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, invite each kid to display their pinwheel. Ask them, “What are you going to use your pinwheel to remind you of this week?” Encourage them to take a deep breath and remember that **[Bottom Line] God can give you the strength to be gentle.*****