



WEEK THREE – JULY 2019 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *This One's for the Children* • Mark 10:13–16 (supporting Mark 9:36–37)

Key Question: *Why is it sometimes hard 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.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

What You Need: Bottles of bubbles, masking tape

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 Snack Shack
- Divide the group into teams of two or three.
- Give each team a bottle of bubbles and a wand.
- Tell teams to select one kid to be the bubble blower.
- Using masking tape, establish a starting line for the bubble blowers to stand on and create a finish line about two feet away from the bubble blowers.
- Explain the game to the group. To play:
 - The “bubble blowers” blow bubbles for their teams.
 - Teams gently blow the bubbles in the air towards the finish line.
 - Teams score a point for each bubble that crosses the finish line.
 - Teams have 60 seconds to see how many bubbles they can gently blow across the finish line.
 - The team with the most bubble crossings wins.
 - You will be the official bubble counter. Position yourself at the finish line with paper and pencil to keep a running tally of the bubble crossings. If you have more than two teams, you may want to have teams take turns playing so you can keep track of all the bubbles!

What You Say:

“Bubbles are delicate things. If you didn’t handle them gently, they popped before they reached the finish line. [Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to hear about what else we need to treat with gentleness.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *Why is it sometimes hard to be gentle? Gentleness is one of those words many might equate with weakness. We want preteens to see that being gentle can be one of the strongest things they do. During Small Group, they'll discover how they show gentleness when it's the last thing they may want to do.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Bible Story Extension

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bibles; paper; pens

What You Do:

- Read Mark 10:13–16.
- Ask: How did Jesus show gentleness?
- Pair kids up.
- Read the one of the prompts below.
 - Challenge pairs to write down examples of how to answer the questions for each the scenario.
 - Award teams a point for each unique idea. (If multiple teams write down the same idea, you can award a half-point for those non-unique ideas.)
 - Go through as many scenarios as interest allows.
- Scenarios:
 - Your little sister wants to hang with you and your friends, and she is so annoying. How can you show gentleness to your sister? What can happen if you don't show gentleness?
 - Your little brother gets into your stuff, and you are so mad! You have told him several times to stay out of your stuff, but he just doesn't listen. How can you show gentleness? What can happen if you don't show gentleness?
 - Your friend is so angry with you for something you don't feel like she should be mad about. How can you show gentleness in this situation? What can happen if you don't show gentleness?
 - Your soccer team just lost the championship game. Your goalie had a really bad game, and you lost by a lot. How do you show gentleness to your teammates, especially to your goalie? What can happen if you don't show gentleness?

- Your friend messed up and feels embarrassed. How do you show gentleness to your friend? What can happen if you don't show gentleness?

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Why is it sometimes hard to be gentle?
 - What does it mean to be gentle with your words? How can gentle words encourage others?
 - What does it mean to be gentle with your actions? How can gentle actions show God's love to others?
 - Explain how being gentle can be a sign of strength. Why does it sometimes seem like being gentle is a weak thing to be?
 - What can you do when you're tempted to not be gentle?

3. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Explain sometimes it is hard to be gentle, especially when we are annoyed or angry.
- Instruct kids to (silently) think of a time in the past week when they were not gentle or were tempted not to be gentle.
- Ask: What are some things we can do when it is hard to be gentle?
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, I love how Jesus treated the little children in our story today! Jesus treated them with gentleness even though the disciples tried to shoo them away! Everyone is important to You! (Consider praying for each kid in your group. For example, Billy is important to You! Joannie is important to You!) Help us to remember that! As we go through our week, remind us to clothe ourselves in gentleness and show others they matter to You! Everyone is important to You! Amen!”