



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
JULY 2022

SMALL GROUP  
**K-3**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

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



### OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Cardstock, balloon, permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Invite the kids to sit around a circular table. (If a table is not available, ask the kids to sit on the floor in a circle.)
- Give each kid a piece of cardstock.
- Show the kids how to make a paper fan by folding the paper accordion style.
- As the kids fold their paper, blow up a small balloon and tie it off.
- On the balloon, write, "God can give you strength to be gentle."
- Place the balloon in the center of the table or the circle of kids.
- Instruct the kids to work together to fan the balloon out of the circle. (This will require the kids to wave their fans up/down/around with large movements to produce more air.)
- Ask the kids to work together to keep the balloon floating inside the circle. (This will require the kids to manipulate their fans gently to produce just enough air to maintain control over the balloon so it stays in the center.)

### 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, NIV

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Each game was challenging, wasn't it? Do you think this game took different kinds of strength? (Allow time for responses.) **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we'll learn about a different kind of strength that we might not have thought of before!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

### BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.





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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



## STICKS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Point Chart" and "Review Questions" Activity Pages, Pick-Up Sticks game or colored bamboo skewers

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Explain that the object of the game is for each team to collect as many points as possible in a game of Pick-Up Sticks.
  - In order to get a turn to play, teams must successfully answer a review question.
  - Read the "Point Chart" Activity Page out loud to let the kids know how the points are tallied.
- Place the "Point Chart" Activity Page where each team can easily refer to it.
- Hold all of the sticks in one hand, just above the floor or table.
- Drop the sticks quickly so they scatter.
- Take turns asking each team a question from the "Review Questions" Activity Page.
- If a team answers correctly, instruct a kid in the group to pick up one stick.
- The goal of Pick-Up Sticks is to pick up one stick at a time without moving any other sticks.
  - If none of the other sticks move in the process of picking up a stick, the team gets to keep that stick and the next team gets to answer a review question and play.
  - If one or more of the sticks move while picking up a stick, gather the remaining sticks and release them in the same way as before.
- Continue playing until every kid has had a chance to pick up a stick.
  - If you run out of questions, simply let the remaining kids take turns picking up a stick, alternating teams each time.
- Assign points based on the color of the stick.
- The team with the most points is the winner.
- If time allows, play another round just for fun!

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## BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"What kind of strength did you have to use to pick up the sticks while making sure none of the other sticks moved? (*Invite responses.*) That's right! You had to be careful and gentle. Gentleness is not just a physical action but also an attitude.

"In our story today, Jesus was gentle with the children, and that's something that we can do, too—be gentle. The fact is, it takes strength to be gentle, to hold back and not say the thing you want to say when you're mad or not shove someone when you get bumped in the line at school. It's not always easy to be gentle, but **God can give you the strength to be gentle** if you just ask!



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## (STICKS, CONTINUED)

“What do you think are some emotions or actions that are the opposite of gentleness? (*Invite responses.*) Those are great examples! The next time you feel frustrated or angry or feel like bragging or saying something unkind, stop, take a deep breath, and ask God to help you show gentleness instead.”



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## MADE TO PLAY

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## PRACTICE PATIENCE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Cards" in two colors, parachutes or round tablecloths

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up Philippians 1:6 and read it out loud to the group several times.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a round plastic tablecloth or parachute.
- Instruct the teams to spread out evenly around their parachute and hold the edges.
- Direct the kids to gently tug on the parachute, holding it low between their knees and the ground.
- On the count of three, instruct the kids to raise the parachute in unison. It should fill with air and rise like a giant mushroom.
- Direct the kids to work together to repeat the motion to create waves.
- Once the group feels comfortable making waves, ask them to stop.
- Place a set of "Memory Verse Cards" in the center of each team's parachute.
- Instruct the teams to create gentle waves, trying to keep the cards in the center.
- After some time making gentle waves, instruct the kids to create big waves—without letting go of the parachute at any time—so the cards land on the floor.
- Once a team successfully lands all of their cards on the floor, instruct them to let go of the parachute, collect their cards, and assemble the verse.
- The first team to assemble the verse in the correct order is the winner.

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### WHAT YOU SAY:

"How easy or difficult was it to control the [parachute/tablecloth] as a team? (Invite responses.) The more you practiced together, the more you were able to control it. Being gentle requires practice. It wasn't easy to create waves, at first, 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 to not hurt their feelings and hearts. Paul was reminding us to keep trusting God to do the good work He started in you because **God can give you the strength to be gentle.**"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



### PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Index cards, pencils

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a pencil and index card.
- Encourage the kids to write down way they want to learn to be gentle.
- Close your group time in prayer.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Mark 10:13-16

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for being so gentle with us. It's so good to know that ALL of us are important to You! Help us follow Jesus' example of gentleness so we can show gentleness to others in the ways we wrote on our cards. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**God can give you the strength to be gentle.**

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to tell them today's **God can give you the strength to be gentle** and explain how they prayed and asked God to help them show gentleness in one specific way. If they feel comfortable, ask them to share what they wrote on their index cards.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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