

WEEK
FOUR
JULY 2022

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



Before kids arrive, talk with God about your Small Group. Ask Him for the strength to be gentle. Pray that you could model how to be gentle with your kids.

JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, coins

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Gentle on My Mind

Jesus and the Little Children
Mark 10:13-16

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is it sometimes hard to be gentle?

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Set out a variety of coins. Provide a hard surface such as a table, uncarpeted floor, or a clip board.
- Challenge kids to see how many coins they can spin simultaneously. Kids can play against one another or in teams.
- Vary the challenge by doing a penny spin (only pennies) or by requiring they spin one of each type of coin at the same time.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can give you the strength to be gentle.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

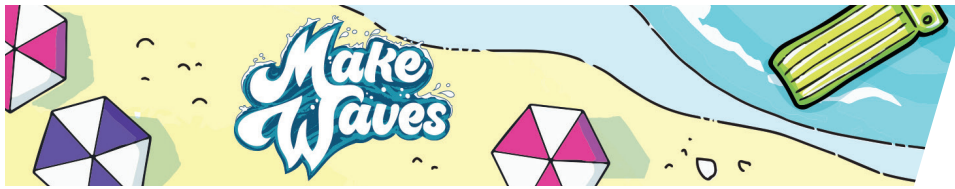
"God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns."
Philippians 1:6, NIV

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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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



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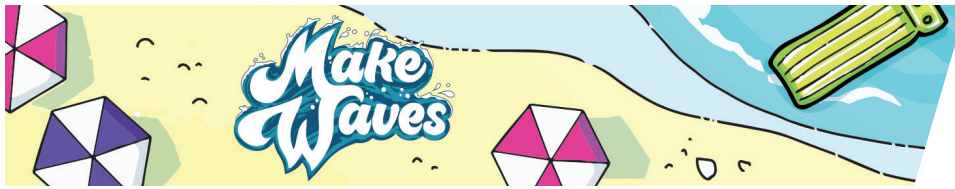
BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, markers or colored pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hand out the paper and markers or colored pencils.
- Guide kids to think about what it would have been like to be able to visit with Jesus and maybe even sit on His lap. What would it have looked like to experience Jesus' gentleness?
- Give kids a few minutes to draw what they think the scene with Jesus and the children looked like. They can illustrate Jesus hugging kids, putting His arms around them, kids sitting on His lap, etc.
- As kids finish their drawings, ask them to turn them into you.
- Then form two teams.
- Explain that you will read Mark 10:13-16, today's Bible story.
- You'll pause several times in the story and hold up one of their pictures of Jesus and the children.
- Teams will then race to arrange themselves to look exactly like the images in the picture.
- Some of the pictures might only need two people and some will need more.
- They should rotate team members and take turns posing so that everyone takes at least two turns.
- After the story has been read, ask:
 - In what ways did Jesus show gentleness? (*He made time for the kids, He made sure the adults made a way for the kids to get to Him, He took them in His arms and blessed them*)
 - How can being gentle be a sign of strength? Why does it take strength to be gentle? (*You have to hold back your physical strength or work harder to choose gentle words*)
 - What are some opportunities you might have this week to demonstrate gentleness?



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MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Why is gentleness actually a strength?
- When might gentle words be difficult?
- Who do you know is a good example of gentleness?
- If you're not gentle with your words and the way you treat others, what could be some of the consequences of your actions?

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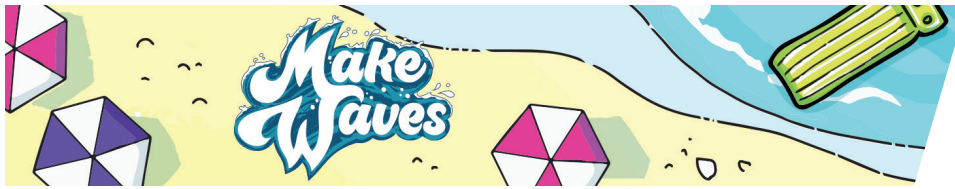
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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Fabric pieces from Verses to Take with You

WHAT YOU DO:

- Express to the kids that we all need help to be gentle, especially when we are tired, frustrated, or angry. That's why God provided the Holy Spirit to give us the help we need.
- Invite kids who are willing to share a prayer request for themselves about when it might be hard for them to be gentle this week. They don't need to share names—just the type of situation they might find themselves in that will require extra effort to show care, concern, and gentleness.
- Ask kids how they could use the fabric pieces they colored earlier to remind them that God can give them the strength to be gentle.
 - Remind them that when they treat others with care and concern, they are sending out a wave of gentleness that will have a ripple effect and make a difference to those around them.
- Let kids pray for one another silently or aloud.
- Close in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, what a great example of gentleness we see in the way Jesus treated the little children in our story today! Jesus was concerned for them and cared about them even though the disciples would have chosen to send them away. Help us to remember that in Your eyes, EVERY person is valued and loved. As we go through our weeks, remind us to let our gentleness be evident to all. And, like a wave, let our gentle actions and words make a difference in the world around us. In Jesus' name, amen."

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