

City SG - July 20-21, 2019

Bible Story: This One's for the Children (Jesus and the Little 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

1. Balloon Toss

What You Need: Balloons (several per bin), timer on mobile device (*optional*)

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Tell kids that you will set a random amount of time, and kids will toss the balloon around the circle.
- When the time runs out, 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 time runs out, 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]** In Large Group, we heard about some other kids who met someone VERY famous. JESUS!"

2. Jesus, May I?

What You Need: "Jesus and Disciples Cards" (set of 10 cards per group)

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!"

3. Lantern Toss

What You Need: “Gentle Scenarios” Activity Page (1 per group), paper lantern (approx. 1 per group, per service), timer on mobile device (*optional*)

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 time runs out, 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 time runs out, 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.”

4. Memory Verse Scramble

What You Need: Bibles, Memory Verse Cards from Week 1 (2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Look up Philippians 1:6 and review it together as a group.
- Divide your group into 2 teams.
- Give each team a set of “Memory Verse Cards”.
- Scatter the phrases on the floor/rug face down.
- On your “GO!” teams will compete to put the verse in order.
- Play as many rounds as time/interest allows.

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!