



Helping Kids Grow in Gentleness God's Way

When Strength Meets Softness

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Define gentleness as strength under control.
2. Explain how Moses showed gentleness by praying for the people.
3. Practice gentle responses to everyday challenges.

Scripture Focus:

- “But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” (Exodus 32:32, *ESV*)
- “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1, *ESV*)

Lesson Flow (25 min)

1. Connect (3 min)

- **Opening Thought:** Ask: “When someone makes you angry, what’s the first thing you want to do? How could gentleness make things better.”
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes student attentiveness and willingness to share.

Teach (7 min)

- Read or retell the story of Moses Praying for the People (Numbers 14; Exodus 32).

After God rescued Israel from Egypt, the people often complained and disobeyed. The worst was when they made a golden calf and worshiped it instead of God. God was angry and told Moses He could wipe out the people and start over with a new nation through him. Imagine that—Moses could have been the leader of a whole new people!

But instead of giving up on them, Moses showed gentleness—strength under control. He prayed for the people, asking God to forgive them and remember His promises. Even though they didn’t deserve it, Moses chose mercy over anger.

Because of his prayer, God spared the people. Moses showed that gentleness isn’t weakness. Gentleness is using strength to help and protect others, even when we’re hurt or upset.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What choice did Moses make to show gentleness?
2. How can we pray for others when they upset us?

- **Explain:**

- Gentleness is not weakness.
- Gentleness is using strength to help and protect others, even when we’re hurt or upset.

- **Assessment:** Teacher checks understanding through answers and engagement.

2. Model (7 min)

- **Teacher shares:** a time you prayed for someone who upset you.
- **Student activity:** Students act out gentleness using Pictionary, Charades, or role-play (being teased, friends arguing, someone taking your place in line, or being on a team that you wanted to be part of but didn’t get picked). Show gentle responses.
- **Assessment:** Teacher notes engagement and application.

3. Pray (2-3 min)

- *“Lord, help us to be like Moses and choose gentleness by praying for others, even when they make us upset.”*
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes participation and reverence during prayer.

4. Closing/Reflection (5 min)

- **Key Takeaway:** Gentleness is strength under control, guided by love.
- **Student Reflection:** Share one way they can be gentle this week.
- **Teacher Closes:** Remind students that gentleness shows God’s power in us.
- **Assessment:** Teacher listens for thoughtful connections.

Optional Extension: Independent Practice

- **“Gentleness Journal”**—students draw or write one moment this week when they chose gentleness over anger.