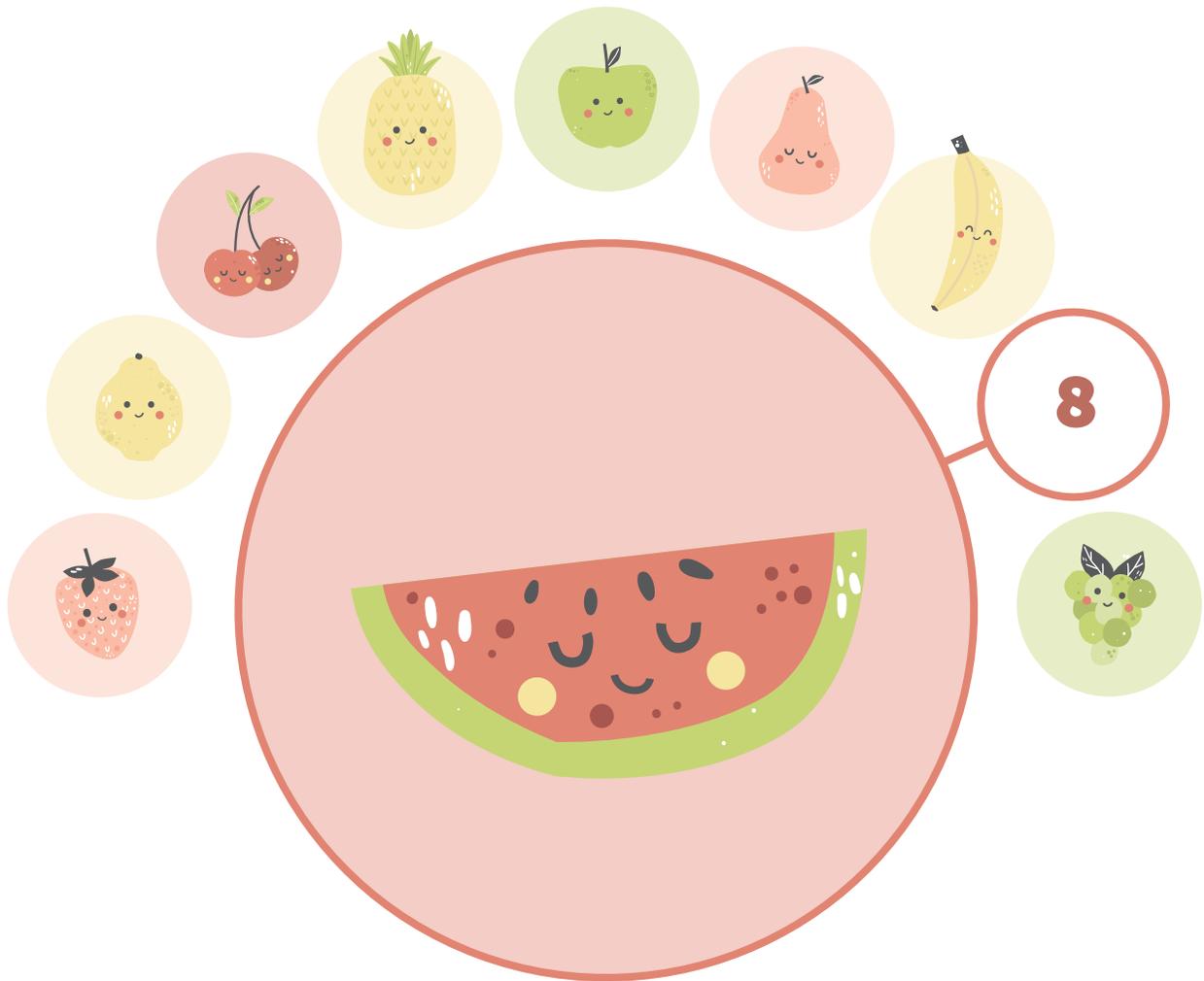


LESSON EIGHT



GENTLENESS



PRESCHOOL LESSON

VERSE FOR LITTLES

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:1

VERSE FOR PARENTS

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:29

INTRODUCTION

- Sing/dance to “Humble & Gentle” by HeroesMart Academy and/or “Pass me not, O Gentle Savior” by Red Mountain Church
Humble & Gentle: <http://bit.ly/gentle4>
Pass me not: <http://bit.ly/passmenotgentle>
- Pray for the lesson & pass out coloring sheet(s)

LESSON

We learn about God in the Bible. The Bible is God’s word to us.

In the Bible, we learn that when we know & love Jesus, He gives us His helper called the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit helps to change our hearts & helps us to be more like Jesus.

One way the Holy Spirit works in our hearts is by helping us grow in GENTLENESS.

GENTLENESS can be seen when someone strong doesn’t use all of their strength for the sake of someone else. It is not the same as weakness, but instead is a controlled strength. GENTLENESS is knowing when to use soft words or a soft touch even if you COULD use



stronger words or touch.

Jesus is our perfect picture of GENTLENESS - with all of the ways we mess up with sin in our hearts, Jesus could use harsh words for us, but we see in the Bible that over and over again He is GENTLE towards his followers & not harsh. (See John 8).

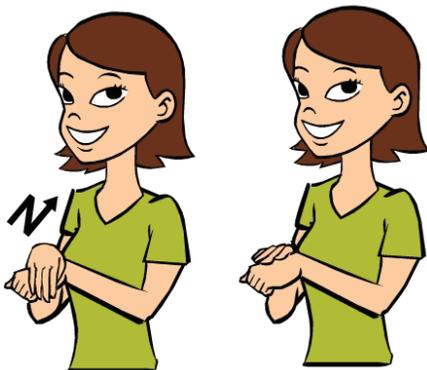
You can practice GENTLENESS in lots of ways - like using KIND words instead of harsh, ugly words; by giving a GENTLE hug to your little brother or sister instead of a big strong hug. When you practice GENTLENESS, you are showing others that you love & care about them, just like Jesus shows us every day.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is GENTLENESS? (Knowing when not using all your strength)
- Who shows us what GENTLENESS looks like? (Jesus)
- What does GENTLENESS sound like? (Saying kind, soft words to someone; etc.)
- Who can we ask to help us be more GENTLE with others? (God/Jesus/Holy Spirit)

LEARN/PRACTICE THE SIGN OF THE WEEK: GENTLE

Take time to review last week's sign for LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS. Then learn our new sign for GENTLENESS (GENTLE):



The sign for "gentle" (gentleness) is made by placing your open hand on your other closed hand, then moving your open hand across the top of your closed hand gently.



CLOSE IN PRAYER

Dear God, Thank you for giving us your Holy Spirit to help us! Thank you for sending us Jesus to live the life we couldn't live. Thank you for showing us GENTLENESS so that we can be GENTLE towards others.. Thank you for loving us & giving us the Bible to learn about who you are. We love you! In Jesus' name, Amen.

BIG TRUTHS FOR LITTLE NURSERY HEARTS:

*God is good, God LOVES me,
The Bible is God's Word for me!*

LIVING IT OUT

- GENTLENESS PLAY - make a kid friendly/pretend First Aid kit with cotton balls, bandaids, etc. Invite your little to play with you and pretend you got hurt (you can make a mark with a marker on your finger, etc. or just pretend) and ask them to help. Have them GENTLY clean your "boo-boo" with a cotton ball, encouraging them to be gentle, & pretending it stings when they are too rough, etc. Then have them gently put on a bandaid and thank them for being so gentle & helping make your "boo-boo" feel all better.

- READ/WATCH/LISTEN:

Watch "The Story of the Prodigal Son" from KidSpring Children's Ministry (<http://bit.ly/gentledad>) or read it aloud together (**Luke 15:11-32**). Discuss the different ways the father showed GENTLENESS to his sons.

Read **Psalms 23** together. Talk about the different ways a shepherd has to be GENTLE but strong. How do you see GENTLENESS displayed in this Psalm. How does God's GENTLENESS affect the life of the psalmist?

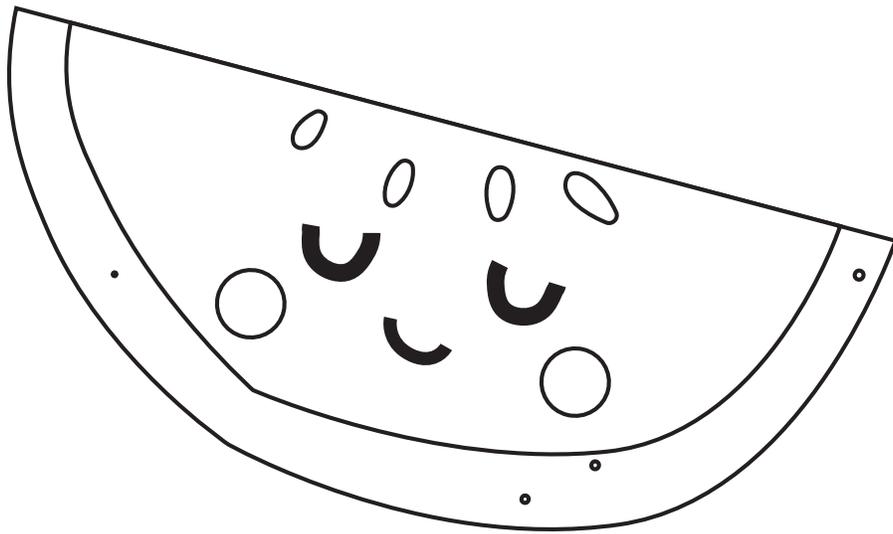
Listen to: "I am Jesus' Little Lamb" by Indelible Grace featuring Rain for Roots (see Nursery Spotify Playlist, or <http://bit.ly/jesuslambs>)



OBJECT LESSON: GENTLE VS HARSH - AN EXAMPLE FROM THE BIBLE

Supplies: something soft (cotton ball, fuzzy blanket); something rough (sandpaper, bumpy rock, etc.)

- Read **Proverbs 15:1**, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger". If needed, clarify the meaning of a soft answer, that wrath is like anger and what a harsh word sounds like.
- Take both of your soft & harsh items and demonstrate how each feels different against your skin. Which would they want rubbed on their skin? Ask which one feels good and which feels bad.
- Shortly discuss how our words can have the same affect on others whether we use soft words or harsh words.
- Remind them how in the Bible we see Jesus is gentle in his words and actions towards others & tell them we are going to read a story where we see Jesus' gentleness, and others being harsh.
- Place one item in each of their hands and ask them to raise either the soft item or the harsh item when they think someone is using a "soft/gentle" answer or a "harsh" answer.
- Slowly read **John 8:1-11** pausing to give them a chance to pick out when someone is being gentle or harsh. (Note: replace "adultery" with "sinful" or "sin" if not appropriate).
- Close by praying for the Holy Spirit's help in having GENTLE words and actions like Jesus did this week.



GENTLENESS