Children’s Sunday School Lessons for June 21. Week 4 Fruit of the Spirit Gentleness: Paul & Barnabas

**Acts 9 Thoughts to focus parents on this week’s lessons:**

Do you have anyone in your life with a calming presence? Someone who brings peace and kindness to any situation? Barnabas was one of these people. He had a gentle spirit. Barnabas showed God’s gentleness toward Saul, giving him a chance when others were resistant to accept him because of his past. In situations where people seemed agitated or angry, Barnabas had a calming matter.

The Fruit of the Spirit of gentleness can be an immense gift to others. Gentleness is not just being timid, tender, or placid. It is being slow to anger, quick to forgive and accepting of those who are different than us. Part of our natural desire when we become Christians is the desire to be more like Christ. He infuses us with His gentle character and because of this, we are able to show that gentleness to others. Part of having gentleness is wisdom and knowing when it is time to take a step back before things get heated. Barnabas did this well when he had an argument with Paul. Even though they disagreed, he was able to move past it and continue sharing the gospel. Gentleness is bringing peace to places of conflict, anger, or hurt. It is being careful not to harm or offend others, thinking before we act or speak, and showing compassion despite the circumstances. Gentleness is showing humility. It is thinking of ourselves less and choosing to think about how we can be kind and compassionate toward others.

Younger Children’s Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=HLGmAT-hIyk&feature=emb_logo>

Questions for Reflection with your Child:

1. What was your favorite part of the video we just watched?
2. In the Bible story, who showed gentleness to Paul?*Barnabas did.*
3. At Skuppeton Farms, how did Melly show gentleness?*Melly was gentle with all the animals. She was kind and helped them with what they needed. She and Megan were also gentle with the eggs!*
4. When you belong to God’s family, who helps you show gentleness?*The Holy Spirit!*
5. How can you show gentleness?*God helps us be kind and compassionate. If someone is having a bad day, you can help them, cheer them up, and pray for them. That’s just one way we can show gentleness.*

Pray with your child and thank God for his love and gentleness. Because of the Holy Spirit, we can show gentleness by being kind and compassionate to others, too!

Elementary School Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=C6d7iUZQiYs&feature=emb_logo>

Questions for Reflection with your Child:

1. What was your favorite part of the video we just watched?
2. Why was it difficult for people to be gentle toward Paul?*They were all afraid of Paul. They found it difficult to believe that Paul had changed and that he loved Jesus, too.*
3. What does gentleness mean?*Gentleness means showing others kindness and caring for their needs before our own.*
4. Who showed gentleness to Paul?*Barnabas did. When no one else believed Paul, Barnabas brought Paul to meet with the apostles to share Paul’s story. Barnabas also shared that he had seen a change in Paul.*
5. When is it difficult for you to show gentleness toward others?*It’s not always easy to be gentle. Sometimes we might be angry with someone and instead of showing love and gentleness, we get angry. God loves us so much and he promises to give us what we need. God will help us, too. When we belong to God’s family, the spirit God gives is of power, love and self-discipline so that we can share God’s good fruit of the spirit with others.*
6. How can you have gentleness, even if you don’t feel like it?*We can pray and talk to God and ask for his help. We can also talk to other people who love God, too. They can encourage us and help us know what to do.*