

Week 5 Curriculum

Faithfulness and Gentleness

Memory Verse: Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. - Psalm 36:5

Monday, July 15

Lesson: Faithfulness - God and Joseph: Faithful to One Another (Genesis 37-45)

- **Large Group Bible Lesson (30 minutes - led by Youth Group)**
 - There are many stories to teach about Joseph. I would encourage you to try to overview the story of Joseph through a skit or retelling of the stories. Many of the kids have heard the stories before and there may not be time to go into detail during this time. The main idea we want to get across is what faithfulness is and how Joseph exemplified it.
 - Conclusion: What a hard life Joseph had. But did you notice how he stayed faithful to God and how God faithfully watched over him? Because Joseph never stopped trusting God, he was able to save his brothers and the whole nation of Israel from starving. Joseph's faithfulness brought about some good things - blessings.
 - Option 5 in Lesson 28 (attached curriculum) is a cute skit on faithfulness
- **Activities (30 minutes - led by Youth Group)**
 - We will not be having normal rotations like in past years. Each color group will only go to ONE activity per day. Please see the **activities guideline** at the end of this curriculum for further details.

Color Group	Activity
Orange	Board Games/Arts & Crafts
Blue	Memory Verse
Yellow	Outside Play

- **Small Group Review Time (30 minutes - led by Interns)**
 - Step 1 Come Together in Lesson 28 Faithfulness curriculum attached
 - REVIEW JOSEPH • ASK, Why did Joseph's brothers hate him? (Because their father loved him more; because of his prophetic dreams; because they were jealous of him) • ASK, What evil thing did the brothers do to Joseph? (They sold him into slavery and then lied to their father) • ASK, How did Joseph react to these things happening to him? (He remained faithful to God and acted with honesty) • ASK, How did God reward Joseph's faithfulness? (He made him a ruler in Egypt)

Tuesday, July 16

Lesson: Faithfulness - The Angel's Visit to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

- **Large Group Bible Lesson (30 minutes - led by Youth Group)**
 - Review Faithfulness and Joseph from yesterday.
 - Tell or act out the story of the Angel's visit to Mary in Luke 1:26-38
 - Conclusion: Did you see how faithful Mary was when the angel told her she was going to be the mother of God's Son? Mary said, *I am the Lord's servant. Let it happen.* I am sure God's heart filled with joy when he heard those words. What a wonderful blessing for Mary. Because of her faithfulness, Jesus, the King of the whole world, was born. God is still calling out to his children. I think he's calling out to you. God says, *Will you be faithful, like I am faithful to you? Can you be loyal and committed to me and others?* I think you can. And when you say yes, you will be part of God's wonderful plan for the world, just like Mary was.
- **Activities**
 - We will not be having normal rotations like in past years. Each color group will only go to ONE activity per day. Please see the activities guideline at the end of this curriculum for further details.

Color Group	Activity
Orange	Outside Play
Blue	Board Game/Arts & Crafts
Yellow	Memory Verse

- **Small Group Review Time (30 minutes - led by Interns)**
 - REVIEW MARY • ASK, Why was Mary frightened of the angel? (Because she did not know what the message would be; because of the angel's glory) • ASK, What did the angel tell Mary? (That she would have a baby) • ASK, Why did this confuse Mary? (Because she was not married) • ASK, What was Mary's response to this new job God had for her? (She faithfully committed to the job) • PRAY, Dear God, please help us to be faithful to you just like you are faithful to us. You never let us down. Help us to be dependable people who can be counted on to keep our promises just like you keep your promises. Amen.
 - Do you trust me? game from Lesson 28 - Step 3, Option 2

Wednesday, July 17

Lesson: Gentleness – Abigail is Gentle with David (1 Samuel 25)

- **Large Group Bible Lesson (30 minutes - led by Youth Group)**
 - Sing a few worship songs and we will show the Believe Curriculum Video on Gentleness
 - Gentleness Skit “Act it Out” (Step 3, Option 6 of Believe Curriculum - Lesson 29)
 - Teach or act out the story of Abigail and David in 1 Samuel 25
- **Activities**
 - We will not be having normal rotations like in past years. Each color group will only go to ONE activity per day. Please see the activities guideline at the end of this curriculum for further details.

Color Group	Activity
Orange	Memory Verse
Blue	Outside Play
Yellow	Board Game/Arts & Crafts

- **Small Group Review Time (30 minutes - led by Interns)**
 - Step 1, Come Together of Believe Curriculum Lesson 29
 - REVIEW ABIGAIL • ASK, Why did David think Nabal should have helped him? (Because David had helped Nabal’s men by protecting them and their sheep) • ASK, What was Nabal’s reaction to David’s request for help? (He was rude and unkind to David’s men) • ASK, What did David plan to do after Nabal showed a lack of gentleness? (He planned to take revenge by attacking Nabal and his men) • ASK, How did Abigail change the situation? (She showed gentleness and kindness to David by taking food and water to him and his men; her gentle actions changed David’s attitude and saved the people)

Thursday, July 18

Lesson: Gentleness – Jesus Gently Questions Peter (John 21)

- **Large Group Bible Lesson (30 minutes - led by Youth Group)**
 - Teach or Act out the Story from John 21
 - Conclusion: Did you guess that Jesus would be gentle with Peter? Jesus was calm and thoughtful with him. After that day, Peter spent every day of his life being a wonderful disciple for Jesus. So how can you be thoughtful and considerate to others? Do what Jesus did. Be gentle in the words you say and the kind things you do. Always think about others. If you can do that, you will be a wonderful disciple for Jesus too. (From the Believe Storybook Bible)

- **Small Group Review Time (30 minutes - led by Interns)**
 - REVIEW PETER AND JESUS • ASK, What had Peter done that made this conversation with Jesus so important? (He had denied Jesus three times, and he was still feeling guilty about that) • ASK, How did Jesus question Peter about his choices? (He questioned him gently) • ASK, What surprising request did Jesus make of Peter? (Feed my sheep/Take care of my sheep) Why was this surprising? (Peter would not have expected Jesus to trust him with leading people after what he did to Jesus) • ASK, Because of Jesus' gentleness, what did Peter do for the rest of his life? (He served Jesus) • PRAY, God, please help us to remember to be gentle with others just as you are gentle with us. Help us to remember how fragile our hearts are and to treat them with great care. Amen

- **Activities** - no activities on Thursdays

Activities Guidelines

This Summer instead of the normal rotations we have done in years past, each color group will go to ONE activity per day. Therefore, your group will only need to plan **3 activities** for the entire week. Activities will take place immediately following Large Group time for 30 minutes. This time will be less structured, but the idea is that the Impact children “little buddies” will pair up with the youth group “big buddies” and have time to build their relationship and dig deeper. At the end of Large Group time, we will put 3 “dig deep” questions on the screen for the buddies to discuss together during activity time. Plan for about 60-70 kids in each group.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Board Games/Arts & Crafts	Orange Group	Blue Group	Yellow Group
Memory Verse	Blue Group	Yellow Group	Orange Group
Outside Play	Yellow Group	Orange Group	Blue Group

Board Games/Arts & Crafts - This activity will take place in the Spanish auditorium and classrooms 5 & 6. We will provide some board games and art supplies but encourage you to bring some of your own games and art supplies. This is a “free choice” time for the children and their buddies. The children are required to stay in the designed area and participate but they can choose any activity they would like in those 30 minutes.

Memory Verse - This activity will take place in rooms 1 & 2. Please prepare several memory verse games and activities for the children to participate in during this time to help them memorize the summer and weekly verses.

- *Summer Memory Verse:* But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. - Galatians 5:22-23
- *Week 5 Memory Verse:* Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. - Psalm 36:5

Sample Memory Verse Activities

- **Cup stacking** - Write each word of the verse on a cup and mix them up. Have the kids work together to put the verse in order by stacking the cups.
- **Hand Signs:** Assign a hand motion for each word of the verse. Teach the children the hand signs and the words at the same time. Then say the words while the children only do the hand motions. And then do the hand motions while the children say the words.
- **Volley Verse:** Sit or stand in a circle. Take a soft ball or balloon and pass it around in a circle, each person saying one word of the verse as they hold the ball and pass it on. Go fast and slow, repeating the whole verse each time. When the kids feel comfortable saying the verse, volley the ball from person to person across the circle, letting each person say one word as they pass the ball.

- **Verse Pop:** Gather several small strips of paper and write one or two words of the verse on each strip. Put each paper inside a balloon and inflate the balloon. Let the children who are sitting the most quietly pop the balloon handed to them and say the word they find inside. Have all the children repeat the word and continue until all the balloons are popped. Have a copy of the entire verse ready so that, in the end, the children can see the whole verse on one page. Repeat the verse several times with all the children.
 - **Verse Puzzle:** Write the verse on a piece of paper and cut the paper into 6-10 pieces. Let the children put the puzzle together as a team. Make sure everyone gets a chance to help. When it is finished, say the verse altogether. Put the puzzle together again. See how fast the children can finish the puzzle and say the verse.
 - **Memory Verse Challenge:** Make signs using construction paper with one or two words of the verse on each. Have several workers or children stand at the front and hold the signs so that everyone can see the words. Lead the children in saying the verse together a few times. Then, one at a time, have the sign holders hide their sign, and say the verse together again. Repeat this until all the signs are hidden and say the verse one more time.
 - **Teams:** Divide the kids into two teams. Let one side say the first part of the verse and let the others complete it. See how loud and soft and fast and slow each side can be. (Remember you can be creative in your team divisions: Boys v. Girls, Sandals v. Tennis Shoes, Eye or Hair Colors, kids wearing shorts v. kids wearing jeans...etc.) Compliment both teams on a job well done.
- **Outside Play** - This activity will take place in the outside area of Impact - we have a volleyball court, basketball court, and gaga ball pit. We encourage you to bring sports equipment and your own games to teach the kids. However, like the board games activity - the children are free to choose what they would like to do during this time. It is important that all children are paired up with a big buddy during this time.

In the event of rain, this activity will move to the large English Auditorium to play large group games.



LESSON 28 | Faithfulness

Bible Basis: Genesis 37–46; Luke 1:26–38

Key Verse: Psalm 36:5: “Lord, your faithful love reaches up to the skies.”

Key Question: Why is it important to be loyal and committed to God and others?

Key Idea: I can be trusted because I keep my promises to God and others.

Resources:

- Video 28, “Faithfulness”
- *Believe Kids’ Edition*, Chapter 28, “Faithfulness”

Master Supplies List

- Believe Kids’ Edition*
- Video 28, “Faithfulness”
- DVD player
- Whiteboard or flipchart with easel
- Dry-erase or regular markers
- Pencils
- Paper
- Family Page (one per student)

Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More:**

- OPTION 1:** Wooden craft sticks (four per student), larger craft sequins (8 mm), glue, card stock cut into 5” x 7” rectangles (one per student)
- OPTION 2:** Blindfolds (at least two), obstacle course items (play tunnel, rope, cones, benches, or chairs, etc.)
- OPTION 3:** Small ball
- OPTION 5:** Two copies of the True Blue script

STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

Supplies: Whiteboard or flipchart with easel, dry-erase or regular markers, pencils, paper (one per student)

INTRODUCTION

- SAY, Today we will learn about faithfulness.
- ASK, What does faithfulness mean to you? (Take responses)
- CONTINUE, Faithfulness is a pattern of doing what is godly and keeping our word. When we are faithful, others can trust us and rely on us.

ACROSTICS

- WRITE the word *trust* and the word *faithful* on the board.
- GIVE each student a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- SAY, I want you to look at these two words and create an acrostic on your paper for each one, using words that come to your mind when you think of *trust* and *faithful*. Example:

T rue
R eliable
U nderstanding
S afe
T ransparent

- ALLOW time for the students to work on their acrostics.
- ASK the students to share their acrostics with the rest of the class.
- SAY, The interesting thing about faithfulness is that we always want others to be faithful to us, to be loyal and dependable, but sometimes we do not require it of ourselves.
- CONTINUE, Faithfulness means that we keep our promises and are reliable; others can depend on us to do what we say we will do. Even when it's hard to make a wise decision, the Holy Spirit helps us to be faithful people.
- CONTINUE, Part of faithfulness is believing that God is who he says he is and that he will keep his promises. The Bible says that we are faithful because God was first faithful to us. Not one of God's promises has failed or will ever fail. God keeps his word and gives us the strength and power to keep ours.
- CONTINUE, We will learn more today about faithfulness and how people in the Bible showed faithfulness during their lives.

KEY VERSE

- REVIEW this week's Key Verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the students are able to say it from memory.
- **NOTE:** You may also choose to review last week's Key Verse together.

Psalm 36:5: "Lord, your faithful love reaches up to the skies."

STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

Supplies: Video 28, "Faithfulness"; DVD player; *Believe Kids' Edition*

Teacher Prep: Have the video set and ready to play.

WATCH VIDEO 28 /READ CHAPTER 28

- WATCH video 28, "Faithfulness," included with this curriculum.
- READ "Joseph: An Example of Faithfulness" (selections from Genesis) from *Believe Kids' Edition*.

REVIEW JOSEPH

- ASK, Why did Joseph's brothers hate him? (Because their father loved him more; because of his prophetic dreams; because they were jealous of him)
- ASK, What evil thing did the brothers do to Joseph? (They sold him into slavery and then lied to their father)
- ASK, How did Joseph react to these things happening to him? (He remained faithful to God and acted with honesty)
- ASK, How did God reward Joseph's faithfulness? (He made him a ruler in Egypt)

REVIEW MARY

- ASK, Why was Mary frightened of the angel? (Because she did not know what the message would be; because of the angel's glory)
- ASK, What did the angel tell Mary? (That she would have a baby)
- ASK, Why did this confuse Mary? (Because she was not married)
- ASK, What was Mary's response to this new job God had for her? (She faithfully committed to the job)
- PRAY, Dear God, please help us to be faithful to you just like you are faithful to us. You never let us down. Help us to be dependable people who can be counted on to keep our promises just like you keep your promises. Amen.

STEP 3 | Explore More

Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help the students explore the lesson further.

Option 1: Faithfulness Pattern Craft (15 min)

Supplies: Wooden craft sticks (four per student), larger craft sequins (8 mm), glue, card stock cut into 5" x 7" rectangles (one per student)

Teacher Prep: Before class, cut rectangles of card stock, about 5" x 7" (one per student).

- SAY, Today we have learned about faithfulness. Faithfulness means that people can count on us to do what we say we will do every time. Just like you can expect a pattern to repeat itself over and over, a faithful person will repeatedly be who they say they are.
- CONTINUE, God is faithfully repeating his goodness and blessings to us. Because of God's pattern of faithfulness, we know to expect God to be faithful and good.
- CONTINUE, When others see a pattern in your life of good choices and keeping your word, they know they can trust you.
- SAY, We are going to create a picture frame using a pattern. As you create the pattern on your frame, imagine that each sequin you glue on is like an action. Imagine each one as a good action in your life that creates a pattern of faithfulness.
- PASS out the materials to the students and guide them in creating a picture frame with the craft sticks and card stock. Glue the craft sticks directly onto the card stock, leaving the card stock showing through as a place to tape or glue a 4" x 6" picture inside later at home, if the students wish.
- CONTINUE by showing them how to create a beautiful pattern with sequins to decorate the craft sticks.

Option 2: Do You Trust Me? Game (10 min)

Supplies: Blindfolds (at least two), obstacle course items (play tunnel, rope, cones, benches or chairs, etc.)

Teacher Prep: Before class, gather an assortment of items that can be used to set up an obstacle course (or several courses if you have a larger class) in your space. You may begin with available tables, chairs, or benches in your area (to climb up on, crawl under, or stand on), and then

add other items such as play tunnels to crawl through, ropes to step over, cones to walk around, etc.

- **SAY**, When we are faithful, it makes others want to trust us. When we are not faithful, people will feel as if they cannot depend on us or trust us. Choosing to do what is right and to obey God's Word at all times helps others know we are faithful and trustworthy.
- **CONTINUE**, Sometimes it feels hard to trust others. Today we are going to play a game that will help you understand what trust feels like.
- **SAY**, You will each get a turn to come up and put a blindfold on. Then you must trust your guide to lead you through the obstacle course without bumping you into anything or anyone.
- **DIVIDE** the students into groups if you have a large class and multiple obstacle courses. Make sure you have one adult guide at each course.
- **ALLOW** each student to be blindfolded, one at a time, as you (or the guide) lead them around the room and encourage them to trust their guide. Make sure every student gets a turn. As an added challenge, switch the obstacle course after about half of the students have had a turn so it doesn't become too easy for those students watching. Also, as an added challenge, you can complete this activity guiding students only with vocal instructions, not a guiding hand.
- **ASK**, What was the hardest part about trusting your guide to help you not bump into anything? (Take responses)
- **ASK**, If you were one of the last people to have a turn, was it easy to trust me? Was it because you watched me keep the others safe over and over? (Take responses)
- **SAY**, That is what faithfulness looks like in action. God has promised to keep us safe, and we can trust him because he is faithful all the time.

Option 3: Pass the Verse (10 min)

Supplies: Small ball

- **SAY**, One thing we can be faithful in is memorizing God's Word. When we memorize God's Word, it helps us to love God more and to make good choices.
- **CONTINUE**, We can use God's Word when we are unsure of what the right choice might be. Throughout the Bible, we see many examples of God's faithfulness.

- **SAY**, Today we will play a game that will help us memorize this week’s Key Verse.
- **REVIEW** the verse several times with the students before beginning the game.
Psalm 36:5: “Lord, your faithful love reaches up to the skies.”
- **INSTRUCT** the students to sit in a circle and pass the ball to the student on their left. Each student will say one word of the verse when they have the ball.
- **CONTINUE** passing the ball around until the students have reviewed the verse several times.
- **NOTE:** To make this game more challenging, you can increase the speed with which the ball is passed on each round.
- **USE** a timer to see how quickly your group can say the correct words of the verse.

Option 4: Praise and Worship (15 min)

“God Is So Good” by Lani Smith
Public domain
CCLI #697979

“Every Promise in the Book Is Mine” by Rick Altizer
© 2007 by Fuseic Music Publishing
CCLI #5016840

Option 5: Act It Out (15 min)

True Blue

Teacher Prep: Assign two students to act out the following skit. Print and photocopy two copies of the True Blue script.

Setting: Drew’s house

Characters

Drew
Mackenzie

Drew: I hope Brad invites me to his party.

Mackenzie: You and Brad have been friends forever. Why wouldn’t he?

Drew: Well, I haven’t been very nice to him lately.

Mackenzie: Why?

Drew: When he got to go on the ski trip and I didn’t, I started feeling

jealous. So I didn't pick him for basketball last week, and I didn't go over and help him study when he asked me for help.

Mackenzie: Yeah, that wasn't being a faithful friend.

Drew: What do you mean faithful?

Mackenzie: Well, a faithful friend is consistent. You can count on them to be loyal and dependable. They don't change just because they feel bad.

Drew: I feel really bad about the way I treated him. I knew it was wrong.

Mackenzie: Have you apologized?

Drew: I did. I talked to him after class the other day.

Mackenzie: Did you apologize just to get invited to his party?

Drew: No, I really feel bad about being a lousy friend.

Mackenzie: I'm sure he will forgive you. You did apologize.

Drew: But what if I was too late? What if he decided not to be my friend anymore?

Mackenzie: That would be very sad! But I hope he will want to be your friend again. No one is perfect except God! We all have to say "I'm sorry" and try again.

DREW walks away and returns with an envelope in hand.

Drew: Hey, look what came in the mail! It's an invitation to Brad's party. I guess he isn't too mad after all.

Mackenzie: It looks like you can count on Brad to be forgiving.

Drew: Yeah, what a faithful friend. *(pause)* I'm going to buy him the best birthday present ever!

DREW runs off excitedly.

STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

Supplies: Family Page (one per student)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Family Page (one per student).

- GIVE each student a copy of this week's Family Page.
- SAY, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family what you learned today about faithfulness.
- HAVE students practice telling the stories about Joseph and Mary.

- REVIEW this week's Key Verse as well as today's story and Key Idea as you wait for the students to get picked up.
- MAKE sure each student remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 28: Faithfulness

Bible Basis: Genesis 37–46; Luke 1:26–38

Key Verse: Psalm 36:5: “Lord, your faithful love reaches up to the skies.”

Key Question: Why is it important to be loyal and committed to God and others?

Key Idea: I can be trusted because I keep my promises to God and others.

Resource: *Believe Kids' Edition*, Chapter 28, “Faithfulness”

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from *Believe Kids' Edition* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What does it mean to be faithful? (Our friends and family can depend on us to do what we say we will do and to do what is right)
2. How is God faithful to us? (He loves us; he provides for us through family, friends, food, etc.; he sent his Son, Jesus, to be our Savior; etc.)
3. In what ways can we be faithful or dependable at home? (Doing our chores on time; helping without complaining; doing what we say we are going to do; keeping our promises)
4. Can you think of a time when you have been faithful?
5. How about a time when you haven't been faithful? How did you make amends?

Living Faith

Option 1

Spend some quality time with your family viewing the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, which tells the story of faithful Joseph with some great music. Sing along with your child if you already know the songs. Afterward, discuss how Joseph was faithful to God even in the worst of times, and how God gave him many blessings.

Option 2

Visual aids often help children to track their behavior patterns and can be powerful tools to help change unwanted behaviors. Creating a simple chart to help your child improve in an area in which they need to show greater faithfulness can help your child apply the Bible lessons and replace unwanted behaviors with positive behaviors, such as doing chores, taking care of a pet, or getting to bed on time. Help your child pinpoint areas that need improvement, and then use a simple chart to track this behavior daily. Take time to review the chart together so your child can see the pattern of faithful behavior.

Extra Mile

- When children see faithfulness being practiced by their parents, it helps them to understand the importance of faithfulness in their own lives. Ask your children if there is an area in which you need to improve your faithfulness, such as making promises that don't get fulfilled, showing up late for important things, etc. Making yourself accountable to your children will have a huge impact on their personal accountability.
- Many people struggle with staying faithful to a healthy lifestyle. Choose a healthy family activity that will get your family outdoors and moving around. Make a commitment as a family to be faithful to this activity once a week or so. This will not only improve the health of your family but will also help your child understand the importance of faithfulness in all aspects of your lives.
- This week, have your child make a list of things they promise to do during the week. This could be anything from "walk the dog" to "be a better big brother/sister." Post the list in a place where your child will see it daily. Remind your child throughout the week to be faithful to their promises, and encourage them to see those things through. Celebrate their pattern of good choices and faithfulness.
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of faithfulness to God and others. Talk about ways that you have seen your child model faithful behavior in relationships in your home and outside.

True Blue Script

Drew: I hope Brad invites me to his party.

Mackenzie: You and Brad have been friends forever. Why wouldn't he?

Drew: Well, I haven't been very nice to him lately.

Mackenzie: Why?

Drew: When he got to go on the ski trip and I didn't, I started feeling jealous. So I didn't pick him for basketball last week, and I didn't go over and help him study when he asked me for help.

Mackenzie: Yeah, that wasn't being a faithful friend.

Drew: What do you mean, faithful?

Mackenzie: Well, a faithful friend is consistent. You can count on them to be loyal and dependable. They don't change just because they feel bad.

Drew: I feel really bad about the way I treated him. I knew it was wrong.

Mackenzie: Have you apologized?

Drew: I did. I talked to him after class the other day.

Mackenzie: Did you apologize just to get invited to his party?

Drew: No, I really feel bad about being such a lousy friend.

Mackenzie: I'm sure he will forgive you. You did apologize.

Drew: But what if I was too late? What if he decided not to be my friend anymore?

Mackenzie: That would be very sad! But I hope he will want to be your friend again. No one is perfect except God! We all have to say "I'm sorry" and try again.

DREW walks away and returns with an envelope in hand.

Drew: Hey, look what came in the mail! It's an invitation to Brad's party. I guess he isn't too mad after all.

Mackenzie: It looks like you can count on Brad to be forgiving.

Drew: Yeah, what a faithful friend. *(pause)* I'm going to buy him
the best birthday present ever!

DREW *runs off excitedly.*



LESSON 29 | Gentleness

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 25; John 21

Key Verse: Philippians 4:5: "Let everyone know how gentle you are."

Key Question: How do I show thoughtfulness and consideration?

Key Idea: I am thoughtful, considerate, and calm with others.

Resources:

- Video 29, "Gentleness"
- *Believe Kids' Edition*, Chapter 29, "Gentleness"

Master Supplies List

- Believe Kids' Edition*
- Video 29, "Gentleness"
- DVD player
- Whiteboard or flip chart with easel
- Dry-erase or regular markers
- Family Page (one per student)

Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in **STEP 3 | Explore More:**

- OPTION 1:** Variety of colored tissue paper cut into strips, a small electric fan, small handheld fan (optional), glue sticks, large sheets of construction paper (12" x 18" or larger, one sheet per small group of students)
- OPTION 2:** Balloon, masking or painter's tape
- OPTION 3:** Balloon
- OPTION 5:** Two copies of the Over Easy script (one per actor)

STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

Supplies: Whiteboard or flipchart with easel, dry-erase or regular markers

GENTLENESS

- GATHER the students.
- SAY, Today we are going to learn about gentleness.
- ASK, What do you think *gentleness* means? (Take responses)
- CONTINUE, Gentleness is being thoughtful and considerate of others' feelings and being aware of how your words or actions affect others.

HARSH VS. GENTLE

- WRITE on the board the words *harsh* and *gentle*.
- SAY, The way we speak to one another is one of the most important ways to show gentleness to one another. Often we use harsh words that could be replaced with more gentle words.
- DIVIDE the class into two teams, but keep the class together as a group. Ask one team to come up with a harsh word or phrase that is commonly used (such as "Give me that" or "Knock it off"). Instruct them to avoid curse words. Ask the other team to come up with a more gentle word or phrase that could be used instead. Then switch and have the second team come up with a harsh word or phrase and the first team suggest a gentle word or phrase. Continue in this way for a few minutes so each team has a chance to offer gentle words three or four times.
- SAY, Speaking in a harsh way is a bad habit that with practice can be easily changed.
- CONTINUE, At home you can make a list for yourself of harsh words you use. Pick one word a day to work on replacing with a gentle word. Once you get through your list, ask close friends or family members for other ways you can practice gentleness.
- CONTINUE, We will learn more today about gentleness and how people in the Bible showed gentleness.

KEY VERSE

- REVIEW this week's Key Verse. You may want to repeat the verse slowly a few times until the students are able to say it from memory.
- **NOTE:** You may also choose to review last week's Key Verse together.

Philippians 4:5: "Let everyone know how gentle you are."

STEP 2 | Hear the Story (15 min)

Supplies: Video 29, “Gentleness”; DVD player; *Believe Kids’ Edition*

Teacher Prep: Have the video set and ready to play.

WATCH VIDEO 29 / READ CHAPTER 29

- WATCH video 29, “Gentleness,” included with this curriculum.
- READ “Gentleness Repairs a Friendship” (John 21:4-9, 15-17) from *Believe Kids’ Edition*.

REVIEW ABIGAIL

- ASK, Why did David think Nabal should have helped him? (Because David had helped Nabal’s men by protecting them and their sheep)
- ASK, What was Nabal’s reaction to David’s request for help? (He was rude and unkind to David’s men)
- ASK, What did David plan to do after Nabal showed a lack of gentleness? (He planned to take revenge by attacking Nabal and his men)
- ASK, How did Abigail change the situation? (She showed gentleness and kindness to David by taking food and water to him and his men; her gentle actions changed David’s attitude and saved the people)

REVIEW PETER AND JESUS

- ASK, What had Peter done that made this conversation with Jesus so important? (He had denied Jesus three times, and he was still feeling guilty about that)
- ASK, How did Jesus question Peter about his choices? (He questioned him gently)
- ASK, What surprising request did Jesus make of Peter? (Feed my sheep/Take care of my sheep) Why was this surprising? (Peter would not have expected Jesus to trust him with leading people after what he did to Jesus)
- ASK, Because of Jesus’ gentleness, what did Peter do for the rest of his life? (He served Jesus)
- PRAY, God, please help us to remember to be gentle with others just as you are gentle with us. Help us to remember how fragile our hearts are and to treat them with great care. Amen.

STEP 3 | Explore More

Choose from these activity options, depending on your available time frame, to help students explore the lesson further.

Option 1: Careful Now! Tissue Paper Craft (15 min)

Supplies: Variety of colored tissue paper cut into strips, a small electric fan, small handheld fan (optional), glue sticks, large sheets of construction paper (12" x 18" or larger, one sheet per small group of students)

Teacher Prep: Cut tissue paper into strips.

- SAY, We have learned today the importance of being gentle and careful with the feelings of others.
- DIVIDE the students into two or three groups. If you have a very large class, divide the class into groups of three or four students.
- CONTINUE, I want each group to work together to use strips of tissue paper to create a simple scene on your construction paper of grass, a tree, and a sun in the sky.
- PASS out supplies to students.
- ASK, Do you think this will be hard to accomplish? (Take responses)
- SAY, Sometimes in life, easy tasks become more difficult when the winds of trouble start blowing our way.
- TURN on the fan (on low, oscillating if possible) so that it begins to blow on the students and their tissue paper.
- SAY, You will need to use carefulness and gentleness in order to create the picture now.
- ALLOW the students to attempt this task with the fan blowing for a few minutes. You may also choose to use a small handheld fan and walk around with it.
- AFTER a few minutes, turn the fan off and see if any students were able to finish their task by being gentle.
- DISCUSS why the students thought this was easy or hard.

Option 2: Gentle Balloon Toss (15 min)

Supplies: Balloon, masking or painter's tape

Teacher Prep: Blow up the balloon prior to the students arriving and set it aside in a safe place where it won't pop. Make a tape line on the floor to divide the area into two sides of a "net."

- **SAY**, Gentleness is something we have to practice every day so that we can get better at it.
- **CONTINUE**, When we practice gentleness, it gets easier to treat people gently. When we treat others gently, they will often begin to treat us more gently too.
- **SAY**, Today we will play a game that will require practicing gentleness.
- **DIVIDE** the class into two teams that face each other, one on each side of the tape “net.” Instruct the students to gently toss the balloon back and forth over the tape “net” between the teams while making sure to keep it off the floor. Remind them that they must be gentle to keep the balloon from popping. You may keep score if you choose; whichever team has the most “points” (volleyball style) after ten minutes wins.

Option 3: Balloon Bible Memory Game (10 min)

Supplies: Balloon

Teacher Prep: Blow up the balloon prior to the students arriving and set it aside in a place where it won’t pop.

- **SAY**, The more we memorize Scripture, the easier it becomes to practice showing gentleness to those around us. Bible verses help remind us how to treat others so that we honor God and his creation.
- **REVIEW** the Key Verse with the students.
Philippians 4:5: “Let everyone know how gentle you are.”
- **CALL** up one student at a time and give them the balloon. Instruct the student to bounce the balloon on their hand. With each gentle bounce, have the student say one word of the verse until they have said the entire verse.
- **GIVE** each student a turn to review the verse with the balloon.
- **NOTE:** If you have a larger group, you may choose to use multiple balloons and divide students into partners or small groups to complete this game.

Option 4: Praise and Worship (15 min)

“Fruit of the Spirit” by Heather Jeffcote, Jules Riding, Marcia Middlemiss

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“Fruit of the Spirit” by Darren Rust and Jamison Statema

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Option 5: Act It Out (15 min)

Over Easy

Supplies: Two copies of the Over Easy script

Teacher Prep: Assign two students to act out the following short skit. Print and photocopy two copies of the Over Easy script.

Setting: A farm

Characters

Hillary

Nealy

Hillary: Would you like to help me collect the eggs this morning?

Nealy: What do you mean *collect* the eggs? Don't you mean *buy* the eggs?

Hillary: No, here on the farm we collect the eggs from the chickens.

Nealy: Oh, okay. Sure!

Hillary: You must be very gentle when you collect the eggs.

Nealy: So we don't break them?

Hillary: Yes, but also so we don't scare the chickens. Chickens are a lot like people.

Nealy: Really? How?

Hillary: Chickens don't like being handled roughly. They don't like harsh words or loud sounds, either.

Nealy: You mean like this? (*clapping and stomping*)

Hillary: Yes. Exactly. The chickens won't like that.

Nealy: How is that like people?

Hillary: Well, would you like it if someone clapped in your face? (*clapping in NEALY'S face*)

Nealy: No! That's annoying! Stop it! (*pushing HILLARY'S hands away*)

Hillary: Just like the chickens, people's feelings are sensitive and can be hurt easily if someone is too rough with them or uses harsh words. Chickens are gentle little creatures.

Nealy: What about the eggs?

Hillary: The eggs are fragile too. They break really easily. They need soft

touches and soft voices when we collect them. Have you ever seen someone crack an egg or drop an egg on the floor?

Nealy: Yeah, my mom cracks eggs in the morning and when she bakes cakes and cookies. Yum! Cakes and cookies! (*getting excited and starting to clap slightly wildly*) I love it when I see my mom get out those eggs because it means she might be making some dessert or something yummy!

Hillary: Okay, okay. I can see we're going to have to calm down and stop talking about dessert before I take you into the chicken coop so you don't scare the chickens off. Let's count to ten, put on our gentle faces, and then go in! You ready?

Nealy: Yes, I'm ready!

HILLARY and NEALY start counting to ten slowly and quietly.

STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

Supplies: Family Page (one per student)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Family Page (one per student).

- GIVE each student a copy of this week's Family Page.
- SAY, Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family what you learned today about gentleness.
- HAVE students practice telling the story of David and Nabal or of Peter and Jesus.
- REVIEW this week's Key Verse as well as today's story and Key Idea as you wait for the students to get picked up.
- MAKE sure each student remembers to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.

FAMILY PAGE | Lesson 29: Gentleness

Bible Basis: 1 Samuel 25; John 21

Key Verse: Philippians 4:5: "Let everyone know how gentle you are."

Key Question: How do I show thoughtfulness and consideration?

Key Idea: I am thoughtful, considerate, and calm with others.

Resource: *Believe Kids' Edition*, Chapter 29, "Gentleness"

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can either read the story from *Believe Kids' Edition* or read the Bible Basis passages from your Bible to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions below to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What is gentleness? (Gentleness is being thoughtful and careful with other people's feelings)
2. How can you show gentleness with your family? (You can think about your words before you say them to make sure they will not hurt someone)
3. How can you show gentleness with other people? (You think about your words before you say them to make sure they will not hurt their feelings)
4. What happens when we do not use gentleness? (We hurt the feelings of other people; we push the people we love away; we don't care about them)
5. When can you show more gentleness? What is your plan to make this happen?

Living Faith

Option 1

Your child can reenact the dialogue between Peter and Jesus. You can take turns with the roles with your child. Use this week's Bible story to recall how Jesus spoke gently to Peter—his disciple and friend. You can also ad lib with your child, imagining how Jesus spoke and how it made Peter feel.

Option 2

Try playing a game together, or your child can have some friends over to compete in the Gentleness Olympics. Games, such as the egg toss or water balloon toss, can help teach your child the physical act of gentleness. You can easily relate physical gentleness to emotional or spiritual gentleness. Playing games like this can provide opportunities for a family discussion of gentleness and how to better practice gentleness in our lives.

Extra Mile

- Many families face challenges with speaking gently to one another. To help your family become more aware of how you speak to one another, you can call for a “Whisper Day.” Instruct your family to go an entire day speaking to one another only in whispers. Being aware of how we speak to one another is a great step toward treating each other more gently in general.
- Many times, we use the word *gentle* to talk about how to act around a newborn baby. As your child gets older, younger children or siblings will begin to look up to your child. Discuss with your child ways to be gentle with a younger sibling or younger children in your community. How can being gentle with young children show the gentleness of Christ?
- Coming up with more gentle words to replace the harsh words your family members normally use when feeling frustrated can help create a spirit of gentleness in your home. Create a list of harsh words that usually are used in your home and brainstorm as a family more gentle words to be used in place of these. For instance, “Shut up!” could be replaced with “Shh” or “Be quiet, please.”
- During family prayer time this week, mention the importance of showing gentleness toward others. As a family, discuss times when others have been thoughtful or sensitive to your feelings. Pray that God will teach your family to be sensitive to others and sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

Over Easy Script

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Nealy: Yeah, my mom cracks eggs in the morning and when she bakes cakes and cookies. Yum! Cakes and cookies! *(getting excited and starting to clap slightly wildly)* I love it when I see my mom get out those eggs because it means she might be making some dessert or something yummy!

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Nealy: Yes, I'm ready!

HILLARY *and* NEALY *start counting to ten slowly and quietly.*