

A Character study:

Gentleness

(Vs. Hitting/Biting/Kicking etc.)

“And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17

This character study is designed to illustrate this character trait using verses, stories, consequences of sin and blessings of obedience found through out the Bible.

Each day you will learn a verse, read a story where this sin is illustrated, then discuss the consequences of this sin followed up by the blessings of obedience. I encourage discussion with your children on ways they can help one another to stay free from this sin.

Resources: This study was created using references from the Bible and the book “For Instruction in Righteousness” by Pam Forster

Gentleness

Memory Verse:

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.

Day 1

What does gentleness mean? Considerate or kindly in disposition; amiable and tender. Not harsh or severe; mild and soft

How can we be gentle towards one another?

Are things like hitting, biting, kicking being gentle?

Story:

Genesis 37, 39, 41 & 42 Joseph's brothers hated him and plotted to kill him

Blessings of Obedience:

Genesis 39:21 But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

Genesis 40:41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."

~Even though Joseph's brothers meant him harm, God used their actions for good.

Consequences of sin:

Genesis 37:31-33 Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces." (*Joseph's brothers anger lead to their plotting to kill him, selling him to slavery and then lying to their father.*)

Questions:

1. How did Joseph respond to his brothers hatred towards him?
2. How does the Bible tell us to resolve disputes?

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Challenge:

Choose to be kind to others when they are not kind to us. Another challenge would be to limit (or completely unplug) the TV for a week. You may notice your child's behavior change when they aren't filled with the harshness that is often in children's programming.

Activity:

Teach your child the physical act of gentleness by modeling it to them. Role play a few situations where their gentleness is required to resolve a conflict. Point out how children and adults can get better results using gentleness rather than harshness. (A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger - *Proverbs 15:1*).

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Day 2

Story:

Genesis 4:1-12 Cain angry with Abel kills him.

Blessings of Obedience:

Cain was not obedient in this situation, but what do you think it would have been like if he had obeyed God and not taken sinful action in response to his anger?

Consequences of sin:

Genesis 4:8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 4:13 Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

Questions:

1. What sin did Cain's anger lead to?
2. Cain tried to hide his sin from God, did it work?
3. How did Cain's anger affect his family?
4. How does the bible tell us to resolve conflict?

Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will avenge you.

2 Timothy 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil.

Challenge for the rest of the week: No yelling! Make sure to talk in a gentle voice, no whining or harsh tones.

Activity: Teach your child the verbal act of gentleness by speaking softly and using nice, kind words. You can brainstorm a list of nice words they can use in a conflict. Put these words on index cards and let them pick a card and practice using it. Do not allow the raising of voices in your home. If you want a gentle home, you should model gentleness.

Day 3

Story: Acts 15:36-40 Paul and Barnabas argued so badly that they parted ways.

Consequences of sin:

Acts 15:39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.

Questions:

1. Neither Paul nor Barnabas were willing to compromise, how did their fighting affect their friendship?
2. How did their fighting affect those around them? (Split John Mark and Silas as well)
3. How do you think things would be different had Paul and Barnabas been willing to compromise and resolve their conflict?
4. What does the Bible tell us about how to react to someone who is not kind towards us? *Romans 12:21* Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Activity: Give your kids different arguing/angry scenarios and have them brainstorm ideas on how to solve the problem. Have them give the kids in the story advice on how to handle their situation.

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Day 4

Story:

James 4:1-3 What causes fights and quarrels among you?

Daniel 3:13-19 King Nebuchadnezzar gets mad and tries to kill Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Blessings of Obedience:

Daniel 3:25 He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

Consequences of sin:

Daniel 3:19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

Questions:

1. Does our fighting glorify God?
2. What causes our fighting?
3. How are we to treat our siblings?

James 4:11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. *Romans 12:10* Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, honoring giving preference to one another.

4. What does the Bible say regarding gentleness?

1 John 2:10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1 John 4:12 If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Gentleness Card: Add the gentleness apple to your character tree! (*If you haven't already, put up a tree using brown and green construction paper. Each week you will add a new apple to the tree*)

Review Questions:

1. How does our fighting effect others?
2. How would our gentleness effect others?
3. How does fighting effect our relationship with God and with our parents?

Application:

1. What does gentleness look like in our home?
2. How can we practice gentleness instead of arguing?

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Please help me to have a heart of gentleness. I ask that you would give me the strength to be gentle in all circumstances so that I can glorify You. I thank you and praise you for all you've done for me. Amen.



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Additional Verses:

Genesis 9:6 Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

Exodus 21:15 And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

Matthew 26:52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

1 John 3:15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Leviticus 19:18 Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Psalms 7:15-16 Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit they have made. The trouble they cause recoils on them; their violence comes down on their own heads.

1 Peter 3:9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

1 John 2:10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1 John 4:12 If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.