LESSON 10: GENTLENESS

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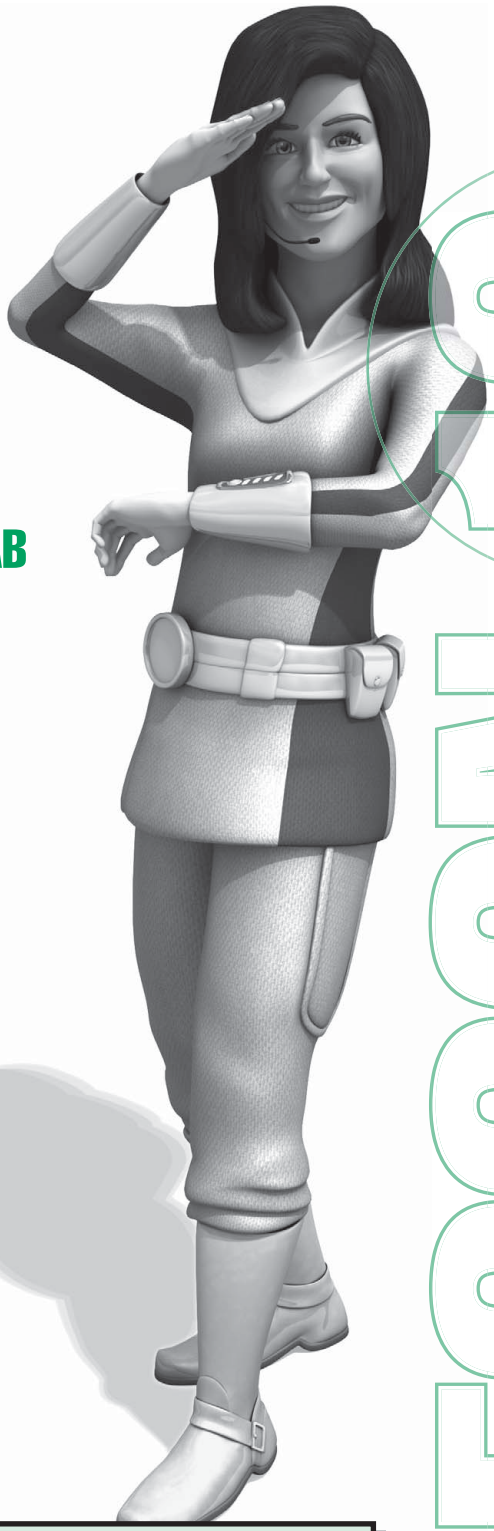

LESSON 10

Memory Verse: "They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone."

Titus 3:2

GAME TIME

DODGE BALL

Time Required: 5-8 minutes

Memory Verse: "They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone."
Titus 3:2

Supplies: ☐ 10-15 Nerf balls, ☐ Goggles (For each player), ☐ Masking tape, ☐ Prizes
☐ Upbeat music to play during the game

Prior to Game:

- Use the masking tape to create a large square on the floor, which will be used as the dodge-ball court.
- Next, use the masking tape to divide the square in half. The bigger the court, the better!

Game Instructions:

- Choose two teams with two to four players on each team, depending on the size of the room and the dodge-ball court.
- Provide each team an equal amount of Nerf balls.
- As a rule and for safety, players can only throw the Nerf balls below the neck area. The goal of this game is to hit the players on the opposing team with the Nerf balls. As soon as a player is hit, he/she will exit the dodge-ball court.
- The last player standing, without being hit by a Nerf ball, wins. Playing music during the game will add excitement and engage the crowd.

Game Goal:

Be a good shot with the ball, or a quick mover. Be the last player standing!

Final Word:

A good leader will lead others with a positive example, not with force. It's great to have fun with this game, while recognizing the importance of strength in character over one's physical strength.

Notes: _____

ACADEMY LAB — TAKE IT EASY

Time Required: 10 minutes

Foundation Scripture: "I, too, try to please everyone in everything I do. I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved."

1 Corinthians 10:33

Supplies: ☐ 1 Egg, ☐ 4 Eggshell halves, ☐ Scissors, ☐ Masking tape, ☐ Books

Prior to Segment:

- Create eggshell halves by cracking raw eggs in half. Consider bringing a few extra eggshells, just in case.
- Prepare the eggshell halves by wrapping a piece of masking tape around the midsection of each empty eggshell half.
- With scissors, trim the excess shell so each half has a straight-edged bottom.
- Bring the supplies used to create the eggshell halves, so the Cadets can experience what went into the preparation.

Experiment:

- After wrapping a piece of masking tape around the midsection of each empty eggshell half and trimming the excess shell to create a straight-edged bottom, lay four eggshell halves dome up, so they form a square.
- Place a book on the eggshells. Continue stacking books on top of the first book, until the shells crack. It's surprising how much weight something as fragile as an eggshell can support!

Lesson Instructions:

- Cadets, today we're learning about a fruit of the spirit called gentleness.
- Many times people think that someone who is gentle is easy to take advantage of or is weak. We want to show you today that this isn't always true. We have something in our hand that can seem pretty weak—an egg.

Ask **Has anyone ever dropped one of these? What happened?**

- It broke and splattered all over, right? Well we have taken some of these "weak" eggshells and prepared them a special way.
- (Explain to the Cadets how the eggshells were prepared.)
- Now, we want to show how something that's very fragile can be very strong.
- (Demonstrate the strength of the eggshells by placing a book on top of them.)
- 1 Corinthians 10:33 tells us to be considerate of everyone's feelings and to not thoughtlessly step on the toes of those who aren't as free as you are. In other words, be gentle and considerate of others; that way when you tell them about Jesus they will be ready to listen and not shut you off because you didn't treat them right.
- Superkids, we can take a lesson from these eggshells; they looked weak but turned out to be very strong. Never forget, being gentle doesn't mean being weak, and a gentle person can lead many people to Jesus!

OFFERING LAWS ARE GOOD!

Time Required: 10 minutes

Offering Scripture: "Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over."

Proverbs 3:9-10 MSG

Supplies: ■ A police uniform and a hat (Consider using a security-guard uniform, one that states authority.)

Offering Instructions:

- Hello, Cadets!
- (Choose a volunteer to assist with the lesson by allowing him/her to wear the uniform. Bring a helper to the front, someone who can slip the uniform over their clothes.)

Ask **Ask: Does anyone know what kind of uniform this is?**

- Yes! A policeman's.

Ask **Ask: What is a policeman's job?**

- (Allow time for the Superkids to share and discuss their ideas.)
- Great discussion! A policeman's job is to enforce laws.

Ask **Does anyone know what a law is?**

- Right! A law is established to keep people and property safe.
- There are many different types of laws; laws that tell us how to drive, laws that specify the treatment of public property and laws that say where kids can ride their bikes.

Ask **Did you know God's Word gives us laws to live by?**

- Following God's laws helps us lead peaceful and healthy lives.
- Let's read our Offering Scripture together from Proverbs 3:9-10. It says, "Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over" (MSG).
- Now, God doesn't have this rule because He's greedy and wants all your stuff. No, the reason His Word tells us to give the Lord the first and the best is because when we do this God can give us His best!
- Speaking of "best," listen to the second part of God's law: "Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over." Now, I know most of you do not have a barn or a wine vat, but what the Bible is saying is that you will be blessed with plenty - not just a little, but with more than you need.
- When you follow God's "giving laws" you will be able to bless others. You will be able to help people who do not know about God's laws. You can show someone how generous God is by being generous yourselves. You can even introduce them to our wonderful heavenly Father. How awesome is that?

Notes: _____

LESSON OUTLINE

GENTLENESS = MEEK, NOT WEAK!

Memory Verse: "They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone."

Titus 3:2

I. MEEKNESS DOES NOT MEAN WEAKNESS

a. Weakness is the inability to defend yourself, meekness is putting aside that ability in order to obey God.

b. Jesus knew what God wanted and chose His will above His own. Matthew 26:39

c. Jesus had plenty of power, yet He wouldn't defend Himself. Matthew 26:53-54

II. GENTLENESS DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY

a. We choose His way instead of our own.

b. We are patient with difficult people. 2 Timothy 2:24; Ephesians 4:2

c. We love our enemies and bless when we are cursed. Matthew 5:44

d. Let parents and teachers tell you what to do without arguing. 1 Peter 5:5

III. THE FRUIT OF GENTLENESS WILL KEEP YOU FROM STRIFE

a. The disciples wanted to fight, but Jesus healed His enemy. Luke 22:49-51

b. Jesus said to turn the other cheek, let God fight your battles. Matthew 5:39

c. Don't give arguing and strife any place, kick them out! 2 Timothy 2:23-26

d. Gentleness will keep you from striving. Don't get mad, get gentleness!

A Word from Commander Kellie: *Gentleness is so needed in our lives. When people allow anger to fly, they are exercising it and making it stronger. So many kids keep anger just under the surface and they get mad about any little thing. As they exercise gentleness, they can on purpose overcome anger. To say we can't or it's hard says we are trying in our own ability, not walking in the POWER on the inside. It doesn't mean someone is weak because they don't respond in anger and strife, it means they are obedient and strong. The Word says in Hebrews that our senses are trained by reason of use. As we exercise gentleness we will come to the place where no one can "push our buttons" or dictate what we do and feel. A great example of this is the trained lion. He is stronger than his trainer but he obeys him. We are just like that. Though we could get angry, we choose to be strong in the Lord and walk in gentleness. When we choose to let God exalt us (1 Peter 5:6), we will definitely come out the winner!*

Notes: _____

REAL DEAL OSKAR SCHINDLER

Concept: Highlighting an interesting historical place, figure or event that illustrates the theme of the day. The theme of the day is gentleness.

Costume: White button-up shirt
Dark suit
Hair neatly combed

Media: If you have the technical capability, you can download pictures of Oskar Schindler, his factory and memorial.

Teacher Tip: Entering in costume is an attention grabber for the Cadets. When presenting the information, it's helpful to have pictures available.

Teen Tip: Reviewing the script prior to service and involving teen helpers is a great way to keep the Cadets involved and attentive.

Supplies: ■ 2 Enamelware pots

INTRO:

- Today we are learning about gentleness. A powerful leader guides others with a gentle spirit, not with force. Jesus had all the power of heaven, yet chose to be a servant to all.
- In today's "Real Deal" you'll learn about a man who used power and a gentle spirit to serve others.

LESSON:

About Oskar Schindler:

Oskar Schindler was born in Germany in 1908. Mr. Schindler was an ordinary businessman trying to make money. He started out as a salesman, and launched several businesses that failed, leading him to try a career as a German spy. That sounds exciting but Mr. Schindler ended up in a foreign prison while working as a spy, and was released after World War II began.

In the Money:

- The Nazis were a large and powerful German army who believed all Jewish people should be killed. When the Nazis' took over Poland, they allowed Mr. Schindler to operate an Enamelware business. "Enamelware" was a special kind of cookware. With the help of about 1,000 Jewish workers, who were paid very little, Mr. Schindler created a profitable business.
- Mr. Schindler's success in business made him an admired man in the community and with the Nazi soldiers. Soon, Mr. Schindler was invited to special dinner parties with important Nazi leaders. After years of struggling to be successful, Oskar Schindler was finally living the good life!

- But the enjoyment he received from money, success and recognition didn't last long; after seeing a large number of Jewish people killed in a Nazi raid, everything changed for Mr. Schindler.
- The Jewish people deserved to be protected and valued. So, at the risk of being thrown into prison or killed, Oskar Schindler began using his Enamelware factory to save as many Jews as possible.

Pots for People:

- Oskar Schindler knew many important Nazi leaders. He convinced the Nazi leaders that many Jewish people were needed to work in his factory.
- Because of his charming personality, gentle persuasion and money, Oskar was successful. Even so there were challenges. Two times the Nazis thought they were being tricked (and they were), so he was thrown into jail. But that didn't keep Mr. Schindler from his mission. After being released, he went back to hiring Jews to help save their lives.

Schindler's Biggest Trick:

- After some time, Jewish people could no longer be hired at the Enamelware factory, so Oskar Schindler bought another factory to help save more lives.
- This factory was designed to make weapons for the Nazis. The challenge with this business was if the factory made weapons for the Nazis, they would use those weapons to kill more Jewish people. Schindler needed another plan to outsmart the Nazis…
- Oskar Schindler decided to make weapons at this factory, with one little catch: none of the weapons would actually work. This plan went well for a while, until Nazi soldiers started complaining about their broken weapons. Oskar had to pay a lot of money to the Nazis to compensate for the faulty equipment.

Down to the Last Dollar:

- By the time the war ended, Mr. Schindler had spent his entire fortune on saving the lives of his Jewish workers. Never again would Oskar Schindler have a lot of money; in fact, he had to live with friends because he couldn't afford to live on his own. He also received assistance from Jewish organizations who appreciated his lifesaving efforts.
- Oskar Schindler believed there was no price too high or risk too great to save lives. He believed it down to his last dollar.

MAKING HISTORY:

- Oskar Schindler never intended to be a hero, but ended up making history by saving the lives of about 1200 Jews. When Oskar Schindler passed away, the Jewish people honored him by burying his body at Mount Zion in Jerusalem. He was awarded the "Righteous Among the Nations" award for saving Jewish lives.

OUTRO:

- Oskar Schindler could have used his money and power against the Jewish people, but instead he chose to be a gentle and giving servant. That's gentleness and goodness for sure!
- Which is why Oskar Schindler is today's Real Deal.

Notes: