

GENTLENESS: IT'S YOUR MOVE

January 24, 2026

Bible Readings

Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

Matthew 12:17-21



Memory Verse

²² God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, ²³ gentle, and self-controlled. There is no law against behaving in any of these ways.

Galatians 5:22-23

CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron Vandenburg
illustrated by Chad Thompson



Carson groaned when his move caused the Jenga® blocks to crash to the kitchen table. “You’ll never win Jenga® by force, Carson,” said his older sister, Ava, as she slowly reset the wooden block tower. “Move the blocks lightly to keep the tower standing. Gentle, gentle. You have to be gentle.”

If you think of gentleness as fuzzy blankets, fluffy kittens, or being weak and walked over by people, you might be surprised to learn that God’s Son, Jesus, is gentle *and* strong. In today’s passage, we learn that when Jesus saw broken, hurting, or forgotten people, he was strong and gentle to help. Jesus didn’t bring change through shouting, fighting, or snuffing people out like a birthday candle. No! Jesus was always for people, not against them. People were helped, healed, and changed through the power of his gentleness.

When you get a bad grade, strike out in baseball, or put a hole in your favorite shirt, do you beat yourself up with ugly names, or are you gentle to yourself as Jesus is with you? Do you fight back and get even when

someone is mean to you? Or do you respond with the power of gentleness so they know you are for them and they are loved? Try this the next time someone hurts you with their words or actions. Picture a Jenga® tower in that person's heart. How can you be so strong, loving, and gentle with them that their inner tower stays standing? Before you make your move, especially if you're ready to topple them with your words, you may even want to whisper a prayer, "Gentle, gentle. Jesus, help me be as gentle with them as you are with me."

Prayer

Lord, thank you for Jesus, who is strong, gentle, and kind. Teach me to be for people and not against them. May your Spirit make me as gentle with myself and others as you are with me. Amen.

written by Lenae Bulthuis

<https://kidscorner.net/devotions/gentleness-its-your-move>

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