Tenderhearted

Lesson Introduction

A little boy crying, is told to hush. He is told, “Be a man, stop crying.” Being a man or being macho does not include the image of tears. Yet in reality tears are an important part of a man and women’s walk with God.

A tender heart is a requirement in the process of being Christ-like. When you see pain and suffering, if you are not moved with compassion and even to action then you have not yet learned what it means to be like Jesus. The shortest verse in the Bible, “Jesus wept.” John 11:35. Imagine serving a God who loves so much that when He looks on the pain of His children He is moved to cry.

What a sobering thought. When was the last time you cared for another to the point of shedding tears. No! Not tears for your pain. Tears for the pain of another. Godly weeping does not mean weakness. No! Instead it shows godly character. If you do not “feel” compassion for the lost, hurting, destitute and needy, you have a problem. Your “feeler” may be broken or grown calloused. Growing in godly character is not only for the children we are teaching. It is also for the teacher. It is easy to be motivated for something we want. Godly motivation to work for the needs of others takes a heart that is sensitive to the creator’s heart beat.

Flash Point

Tenderhearted with an open hand not a fist.

LESSON SEVENTEEN

Memory Verse

Flash Point
Tenderhearted with an open hand not a fist.

PREPARATION LIST

Prepare all songs and story pictures. Trace and color the songs and pictures onto transparencies or larger pieces of paper. If any items are not available, attempt to locate acceptable substitutions.

Welcome: Mad Scientist (MS) costume
National Anthem: National flag
Game #1: 8 glasses, flavored drink
Game #2: cookies,candy, pencils
Special Emphasis:
Offering: Containers for offering
Announcements: Flyers for next meeting
Lesson Introduction: First Aid supplies
Memory Verse: Transparency or posterboard
Bible Story: Motorcycle helmet
Object Lesson #1: 3 candy bars
Object Lesson #2: Rock, pins, a doll
Object Lesson #3: Pots, pans, spoons
Object Lesson #4: Lemon and a glass

Kids Club Rally

Welcome:
KIDS Rules
Prayer _____
National Anthem _____
Theme Song _____
Praise Songs _____
Review Questions #1 _____
Game #1 Help 2 Drink
Review Questions #2 _____
Game #2 Guess So
Special Emphasis
Offering _____

Worship _____
Special Ministry _____
Announcements _____
Lesson Introduction Be Tenderhearted...
Flash Point: Tenderhearted with...
Memory Verse Ephesians 4:32
Bible Story Walk On The Moon
Object lesson #1 Someone's Watching
Object lesson #2 Rock 'D' Baby
Object lesson #3 Clanging Symbal
Object lesson #4 Will U Drink?
Story Time No Rule Against It
Ending Prayer

TENDERHEARTED

Welcome

Props: Mad Scientist (**MS**) costume. Thumbtacks, red heart.
Preparation: Dress a volunteer to look like a mad scientist. (Be creative.) Put a red heart on his shirt using thumbtacks, (push pins). **Caution:** Place something to protect him from actually getting poked or injured.
Leader: We have been learning about Character. Remember there is a difference between being a character and having character. Part of godly character is patience. Generosity is also a part of having godly character. Today we will be learning about being tenderhearted. Practice the three **Flash Points:** Character, Patience and Generosity.
Being tenderhearted means that you are easily moved to caring for others. If you know of someone who has a broken arm, or an individual who is hurting, Jesus wants you to care for those who are hurting. That means we are being tenderhearted.
Mad Scientist: Interrupts, coming out with a red heart pinned on to his shirt. The heart should look like it is placed on his shirt with thumbtacks or pins. "Ouch! (He should tenderly pat his heart) Hi everyone, here I am! Remember me I'm a character! Ouch! Hi! I hear you are talking about me again today. Ouch! **Leader:** Why are you saying, "Ouch?" **MS:** Oh that's cause I have a tender heart. Can't you see that it's near Valentines and I have a red heart pinned on my shirt. It really makes me tenderhearted. All those pins poking me. Ouch! **Leader:** Come here, I'll help you. Take off the heart and hand it to the MS. **MS:** takes the red heart and rubbing his chest says, "Thanks that feels so much better. Ouch! **Leader:** Now what's wrong. **MS:** I'm tender thumbed. (Rubs his thumb, where he pretends he poked himself. Leader encourages MS to exit. **MS Exits.**
Leader: Being tenderhearted does not mean you have thumbtacks or pins poking into your heart. Being tenderhearted means you care for others. You feel for them, when they hurt you feel pain.

Kids Rules
Opening Prayer

Select a child to pray. (Alternate with different children from week to week).

Suggested prayer: Dear Jesus, Please help us to have fun while we learn about being tenderhearted, like you are. Please help us all to be generous, patient and tenderhearted with each other as we learn to obey you. (If someone is not well, include them in the prayer). Thank you Jesus. Amen.

National Anthem
Praise Songs
Review Questions

1. What was last weeks Flash Point? Generosity gives us velocity to grow and go!
2. What was the Bible Story. Dorcus was a disciple who gave.
3. Last weeks Memory Verse. There was a disciple named Dorcas... Acts 9:36
4. One of the Four Rules of Life.

Game #1
Help 2 Drink

Props: Eight glasses, flavored drink mix, eight spoons, cold water.
Preparation: Place flavored drink mix in two containers (ice is optional).
Participants: Recommend eight players. Equal numbers of boys and girls. All ages may play.
Game Rules: Have the player players pair up. Have the children stand in a line with their glasses and spoons in hand (all facing the audience). Explain that upon the signal to start the contestants are place three tablespoons of flavored drink in their glasses, then fill their glasses with water, stir, next help their team partner to drink all the glass. Each team member ONLY helps another to drink.

(No one is to handle their own glass when drinking). When both have finished their drinks they are to raise their glasses in the air. The first team completing the task is declared the winner.

Review Questions

1. What does generosity mean? Giving.
2. What is the opposite of generosity? Selfishness.
3. Flash Point: Character... with actions.
4. Memory verse, I Cor. 15:33. Do not be fooled: Bad company corrupts good character.

Game #2
Guess So

Props: Cookies, candy, pencils, rock, and fruit (perhaps bananas).
Preparation: Count the cookies banana's, pencils and candy. Place the cookies, pencils, banana, and candy in separate see through containers. Weigh the rock and write the weight and numbers down.
Players: Two groups of four each. Or size to your choice.
Playing: Separate contestants into two groups. Select a leader for each group. Hold up an item and ask the group to tell their leader what the answer is for each question. Give ten seconds for them to come to an agreement on each item. Keep score on which team is closest to the correct answer. Consider awarding winners the cookies, and the second place team the bananas or pencils.

Offering
Children in Special Ministry
Worship
Announcements

Lesson Introduction
Be Tenderhearted

Props: First Aid supplies and cleaning supplies.
Presentation: Let's look around for someone who is hurting. If you have an injury, tell someone next to you. If you see someone next to you that has an injury bring them to the front. (Have helpers ready with a first aid kit). Encourage cleanliness and teach proper first aid care.
Part of being tenderhearted, is being aware, or on the lookout for hurting people. If you see someone who is hurting, if you can help them that is practicing being tenderhearted like Jesus. All of us, no matter how young or how old we are, need to be tenderhearted. (Take time to attend to the needs of your children. Be careful not to minimize their hurts.) **Flash Point: Tenderhearted, with an open hand not a fist.**

Quiet Seat Time

Memory Verse

Be kind and tenderhearted to each other. Forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ.
Ephesians 4:32

Props: Transparency or poster of today's scripture verse. It can be used as a coloring page for the class or as a take home item.
Preparation: Practice and become familiar with today's memory verse. Use the music provided on the Kids Praise and Worship tape.
Presentation: Godly character comes from the heart. As we learn today's memory verse we need to apply it to our lives. Following Jesus and living like He wants us, is the greatest thing we can do. Sing today's memory verse.

Flash Point

Review: Practice three previous weeks **Flash Points** with actions. **#1. Character** is the good or godly actions that come from our heart. Character is not found in what we know. Point to your head, *meaning knowledge*. Shake your head no. **It's not there.**

Character is **not** just what we do. Point to your hands, shake your head no. There are people who know how to work hard, but that does not mean they have good character. What we do, does not necessarily mean we have good character. **It's not there.**

Godly character comes from the heart. Point to your heart. Shaking your head yes. If you have godly character it comes from knowing and serving God. Having God in your heart and following Him is the best way to develop good character. Good character comes from the heart. **It is there!**

Last week's lesson taught about one part of godly character, **"patience."** If we love God and learn to be patient we are learning to develop godly character. **#2. Patience hard 2 find. Important 2 have. #3. Flash Point: Generosity gives us velocity to grow & go.** Today's **Flash Point: Tenderhearted with an open hand not a fist.**

Bible Story

Walk on the Moon

I John 4:2-12

Props: Motorcycle helmet, camera and other props as desired.

Preparation: Read today's scripture passage in order to familiarize yourself with this passage. Use words, drama and actions appropriate for your group.

Presentation: How many of you dream of doing something great? Would you like to be famous. When men walked on the moon they were very famous. (Put on the moon (motorcycle) helmet). How would you like to be famous? God created us to be winners.

The only way the men were able to walk on the moon is because they were willing to go through the moon mission training process. No one was allowed to go to the moon unless they were first trained. (Remove helmet, and place it under your arm).

Being famous and popular is fun. We want people to like us. Some will do almost anything to be on TV or to have their picture taken with a famous person. (Bring out the camera and take some pictures (Optional, just pretend like you are taking pictures.) If you know of someone in your group who has been on TV or in the news mention it. Most people when they get on TV have the biggest smiles. It makes us feel good to feel important, even if for a day. This is the way the world views things (verse 5).

Bring someone from the audience, place the moon (motorcycle) helmet on their head. With God you can be more famous than even someone that walked on the moon. But first we must walk in truth (verse 6) and love each other (verse 12). If we love and are tenderhearted towards each other we will be great in God's eyes. It's His love that makes us great. If you are on TV and if everyone knows you, that makes you famous. But even famous people go to hell. God sees us all the time. "When does God see us?" (Encourage a response.) All the time.

The Bible tells us that God created us. It tells us that when we ask God to live inside of us that God, who is in us, is greater than the one who is in the world (verse 4). We can feel great knowing that God's love lives inside of us. God sees us, and loves us for eternity. Isn't that much better than even being on TV for a moment? People who are on TV are seen for a moment, but soon they are forgotten.

One very special verse in the Bible is also the shortest verse. Does anyone know what it says? (Encourage response.) "Jesus wept. John 11:35 If you look at why Jesus was crying you will find that it was because people were having problems and He cared. He is very tenderhearted and He cares for you! Say it with me. Jesus cares for me! (Repeat several times with the audience (Loudly then soft). **Flash Point: Tenderhearted happens with an open hand not a fist.**

LESSON SEVENTEEN

Object Lesson #1
Someone's Watching

Props: Three candy bars.
Preparation: Select three volunteers. Prepare them to act out the following lesson. Modify as needed.
Presentation: A father and mother decided to test their children. One at a time they gave them each a candy bar. To their first child they said, "You may eat this candy bar when no one is watching. Go wherever you have to, to make sure that no one can see you. Then you may eat it. (Start with the oldest volunteer first). The first volunteer, quickly goes and finds a secluded spot under a table, where by looking around he can tell no one can see him and he eats the candy bar. He runs back to his mother and father and tells them, where he went and that he ate the candy bar. He was sure that no one watched. The mother and father both sadly shook their heads and turned to the second younger child, repeating the same directions. The second child realized that his older brother did not pass the test, and so he did not hide under the table. Instead he looked around and hid behind a tree (Option: Select available hiding places.) Looking around he saw no one was watching and quickly ate his candy bar, and ran back and reported it to his parents. His mother and father shook their heads sadly. They turned to their youngest, the third child and gave the same instructions. The child went out looking everywhere. Finally he came back to his parents, with a sad face, and the candy bar in his hand. He said to his mother and father, "I was unable to do what you asked me to do, because everywhere I went God was watching me." With that his parents smiled and gave him a big hug. They said, "Son you have passed the test. That is the truth. Everywhere you go God is watching you.
Being tenderhearted is pleasing to God. If we are not tenderhearted, we will not please God. He forgave us our sins, by the death of His son. He asks us to also copy His son by being tenderhearted and forgiving. **Flash Point: Tenderhearted happens with an open hand not a fist.**

Object Lesson #2
Rock 'D' Baby

Props: Rock, pins and a doll.
Presentation: (Act out story as much as possible.) There was once two little sisters. Tillie was the oldest and Ruthie her little sister. Mom would have Tillie help her rock little Ruthie. At the start maybe Tillie liked to rock her little sister Ruthie. (Rock the doll gently). Maybe... But two minutes is a long time to a little girl, and Tillie wanted to do other things with her time. She wanted to play with her friends. But, Tillie's mother insisted that she help look after little Ruthie. Tillie decided the only way she wanted to rock the baby was if she could use real rocks! Hold up a rock.
Tillie obeyed her mom. She knew if she didn't her mom would punish her. That didn't make Tillie happy and she decided that her mother loved Ruthie more than herself ,and that wasn't fair. Tillie was only five or six years old when she began to learn to be hard-hearted. She learned to be hard-hearted the same way we learn to be tenderhearted. It is a decision. We make these decisions every day. When Tillie was only six years old she was teaching herself to be bitter and to hate. When she was old enough to get married, she did as quickly as she could, glad to leave home. She and Ruthie continued to live in the same small town of less than 300 people for over seventy years, For seventy years Tillie refused to talk to Ruthie. If someone ever asked her about her sister, she would always say something cruel and mean. (Take pins and poke into the dolls clothes for each mean thing she said. Use your imagination of what she might have said. Cruel, teasing.)
Let me tell you about Ruthie. She was not very pretty. She had a growth on the side of her face,

near her nose about the size of a golf ball. It got bigger as she grew older. You can imagine how many unkind things Ruthie's sister say about her, including her face. You can also imagine how much those things would hurt. Tillie's had seventy years to practice saying cruel things about her sister.

If you had a sister or brother who called you ugly, what would you call them? What would you do to them, if you could? Would it matter if it were true? When Tillie was seventy-seven years old, she grew sick and reached her time to die. Tillie had no family or friends to come and care for her. She had spent her life with bitterness and hate. Now in the hospital there was only one person who came to visit her faithfully. Her only faithful visitor was someone she had known for a long time. It was Ruthie. But, Ruthie was different than Tillie. Ruthie no longer had the growth on her face. When she was about 67 a kind doctor helped Ruthie to have the growth removed. Ruthie was different from Tillie because she had spent her 74 years in developing a tender (Jesus) heart. When her sister said or did mean things to her, rather than hitting or talking bad back she decided instead that she would listen and follow the teachings of Jesus. Ruthie was tenderhearted. Her love for Jesus allowed her to forgive her sister even through 74 years of verbal abuse. Ruthie faithfully prayed for her sister, throughout all those years.

In the last weeks of Tillie's life, She finally began talking to Ruthie. Tillie's told her how that her bitterness and anger all started back when Tillie had to push Ruthie in the little baby cart, when Ruthie was so young she could not have even known. Tillie let bitterness start in her heart when her mother made her care for little baby named Ruthie. Together the two sisters made peace and Ruthie told Tillie about Jesus and Tilliea asked Jesus into her heart. Now Tillie would be with Jesus when she died. Tillie died but Ruthie knew she was okay. She was with Jesus. **Flash Point: Tenderhearted happens with an open hand not a fist.** Wouldn't Tillie's life have been so much happier if she had decided to love her sister when she was a child rather than on her death bed? How long will it take you to decide to follow Jesus?

Object Lesson #3
Clanging Cymbal
I Corinthians 13

Props: Pots, pans, and spoons.

Preparation: Distribute several tambourines and or pots and pans, with spoons. Make a two sided sign on a piece of wood. One side should read, **"False"** the other side **"True."**

Presentation: Remember **Flash Point: Character? It's not there. It's not there. It's there!** This can be said for all the attributes that make up godly character. Being generous and tenderhearted is the same. I want you to help me. If I say something that is not true, then you may make noise using the pots and pans.

If I give money to someone, because they will beat me up if I don't 'that' is being generous. True = Be quiet. False = Make noise. (Give them a moment to decide.) The right answer is false. Hold up the sign, **'False.'** (Encourage them to make noise.)

During, 'Quiet Seat Time' If I give you candy because you say, "Give me candy!" I am being generous! (Give them a moment to decide.) Hold up the sign, **'False.'** (Encourage them to make noise.)

Your friend cries when they see you hurting, because they love you. Is that being tenderhearted? (Give time to decide.) Hold up the sign, **'True.'** (Motion to be quiet.)

Imagine a beggar comes to you while walking on the sidewalk with your friends. The beggar asks for money and says he is hungry. You know your friends are watching so you give enough for the beggar to buy himself some food. Are you being tenderhearted and generous? (Give time to decide.) Hold up the sign, **'False.'**

I give my money to help someone who is in need, because I believe Jesus wants me to and I love to help people in need. (Give them a moment to decide.) Hold up the sign, **'True.'** (Motion to be quiet.) (Add to this list as desired). The Bible says that if we give without love we are like a noisy pot. **Flash Point: Tenderhearted happens with an open hand not a fist.**

LESSON SEVENTEEN

Object Lesson #4
Will U Drink?
I Corinthians 10:23-33

Props: Lemon and a glass.
Presentation: In front of the audience squeeze out several lemons into a glass. (Take out the seeds.) Ask for one of them to come. Give them the cup and ask them if they would like to slowly drink the strong sour lemon juice. If they are honest, most people would say no.
Drinking this sour drink, is much like following the teachings of Jesus. Most of the teachings of Jesus are about changing and being willing to do something, “in love” that we would **never** normally want to do. Without allowing Jesus to change our natural heart, we will never find out what growing in Jesus is all about. A child can do this. Jesus said to the adults, unless they became like a little child they could not enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:1-6)
What if your friends say that to follow the teachings of Jesus is “bu ang.” (Filipino word for ‘crazy’). Would you still choose to follow Him? You must choose. Lift the cup. If you follow Jesus you may find walking with Him seems hard, but be patient, His reward is love and eternity, not hell for eternity. **Flash Point: Tenderhearted happens with an open hand not a fist.**

Story Time
No Rule Against It

Picture 17:1 There was a big high school with a class of rowdy, out of control, rebellious, undisciplined, naughty, destructive, and mean students. No teacher had been able to handle them. Already this year the class had made teaching so miserable that two or three teachers had been run off from the school by this class of students.

Picture 17:2 A young man named Jeffrey, had just graduated with a teaching degree from college. He needed a job and heard about the school looking for a teacher. He had also heard about the teacher “killing” class and thought it would be a good challenge. Jeffrey went to the school to apply for the job. The principal looked at the young man in shock. He had been hoping for a tough older teacher, perhaps a veteran from the war. The principal asked the young man, "Do you know what you are asking for? No one has been able to handle these students. You are just asking for trouble. You have no teaching experience." After a few quiet moments and a silent prayer, the young man looked at the principal and said, "Please sir, with your consent I will accept these students as a challenge. Just hire me on a trial basis."

Picture 17:3 The next morning Jeffrey stood before the class. He said to the class, "Young people, I came here today to be your new teacher. But I realize I can't do it by myself. I must have your help." One big boy, they called Rumble Ronnie, in the back of the room whispered to his buddies, "This is going to be fun. I don’t need any help on this one. I can lick that little dude all by myself. That will make it teacher number four for the year." His classmates giggled and whispered back, “Yeah! Go get’em’ Rumble Ronnie!”

Picture 17:4 Jeffrey told the class that if he was to teach them there would have to be some rules. Jeffrey also added that he would allow the students to make up their own rules! He would write them on the blackboard. This was very strange the students thought! One young man suggested "NO STEALING." Another one shouted "BE ON TIME FOR CLASS." Another student shouted "NO LYING." Pretty soon they had 10 rules listed on the board. The teacher then asked the class what the punishment should be for breaking these rules. "Rules are no good unless they are enforced," he said. Someone in the class suggested that if the rules were broken, they should receive 10 swats with a rod across their back with their coat off. Jeffrey thought that was pretty harsh, so he asked the class if they would abide with this punishment. The class agreed.

Picture 17:5 Everything went pretty good for two or three days. Then Rumble Ronnie came in very angry. He said that someone had stolen his lunch. All the students feeling they had to enforce their own rules talked to each other and they found out that little Jabez had stolen Rumble Ronnie's lunch. Someone had seen him with Rumble Ronnie's lunch!

Picture 17:6 The teacher called little Jabez up to the front of the room. Little Jabez admitted he had taken Rumble Ronnie's lunch. Jeffrey asked him, "Do you know the punishment? Little Jabez nodded that he did. "Take off your coat, then," the teacher instructed. Little Jabez had come with a great big coat on. Little Jabez said to the teacher, "I am guilty and I am willing to take my punishment, but please don't make me take off my coat." The teacher reminded the class and little Jabez of the rules and punishments and again told him he must remove his coat and take his punishment like a man.

Picture 17:7 The little fellow started to unbutton that old coat. As he did so, the teacher saw he did not have a shirt on under the coat. And even worse, he saw a frail and bony body hidden beneath that coat. The teacher asked little Jabez why he had come to school without a shirt on. Little Jabez replied, "My daddy's dead and my mama is very poor. I don't have but one shirt, and she is washing it today. I wore big brother's coat so I could come to school." Jeffrey was young and this was his first teaching job. He knew if he didn't follow the rules the kids would not follow them any more either.. He stood there and looked at little Jabez's frail back with his ribs sticking out, and the spine protruding against the skin.

LESSON SEVENTEEN

Picture 17:8 He wondered how he could use the heavy rod to hit that little back and without even a shirt on. Still, he knew he was forced to give out the punishment or the class would end up not obeying the rules. Jeffrey was not cruel. He really liked to teach and he liked people. Yet he knew that if he was going to be able to teach this class, the rules had to be followed. He wished there was a way out. Jeffrey drew back his arm to bring the rod down on little Jabez's back. This reminds me a lot of God. When so many people think of God, they see Him with a big stick drawn back just waiting for an opportunity to hit them for the bad things they have done. What many people do not see is the tears of God. God has to live by His laws. If He let murderers and liars into heaven, it would not be heaven, it would be hell. But God made a way to have the punishment paid. Jesus came and took our punishment for sin.

Picture 17:9 Just as Jeffrey drew back the rod to punish Jabez, Rumble Ronnie stood up and came down the aisle. He asked, "Is there anything that says I can't take little Jabez's whipping for him?" The teacher thought about it and said no there wasn't. The rule was broken and the punishment had to be given but there was no rule that said someone else could not take the punishment. With that Rumble Ronnie ripped his coat off and stooped, standing over little Jabez' at the front of the class. This is what Jesus did for us when He died for us on the cross.

God allowed Jesus to take our punishment for the bad things we have done.
That is how Jesus made a way for all who have sinned to be able to go to heaven. If only we will accept the payment He made.

Picture 17:10 Hesitatingly the teacher began to lay the rod on that big back. But for some strange reason after only five times that wooden rod just broke in half. Jeffrey buried his face in his hands and began to sob. He heard a commotion and looked up to find not even one dry eye in the room. Little Jabez had turned and grabbed Rumble Ronnie around the neck, apologizing to him for stealing his lunch, begging his forgiveness. Little Jabez begged Rumble Ronnie to forgive him. He told Rumble Ronnie that he would love him till the day he died for taking his whipping for him.

Wrap Up

Aren't you glad that Jesus took our whipping for us? God's law is, "All who sin must pay the punishment and die." Jesus, was the only one who never sinned. He died in our place so that we can have forgiveness and eternal life in heaven with Him. We don't deserve it but He paid for our sins. Aren't you glad He was tenderhearted for us? If you would like to accept Jesus as your Savior, please pray with me.

Suggested Prayer

Dear Jesus, I'm sorry for my sins. Please forgive me and come into my heart and help me to live for you. Thank you Jesus for taking the punish ent for me. I accept you gift of love and forgiveness. In your name, Jesus. Amen.