

Children's sermon: August 29, 2010
"Tough guys"

How's school, my friends????

In life ----- sometimes ... you GOTTA BE TOUGH.

These guys over here ... they are pretty tough boy and girl balls. Feel them ----- baseball, football,
soccer ball ... yes, tough!@!!

They hang-out together, play together and if you are not tough ... well,
they don't pay much attention to you.

Over here ... well, it's FRED.

Fred isn't tough. Here ----- look at him, feel him.

HE IS SOFT ... HE IS GENTLE ... HE'S KIND-OF FRAGILE.

He's afraid of the "tough balls" ... he's not one of them. So, Fred spends a lot of time alone.
Eating by himself ... walking to school by himself.

Remember the "Angel Hope" from last week????

She needs to make another visit ----- to Fred.

She tells him ----- it's ok to be soft. In fact ----- being soft ... and gentle ... and nice ...
well, it's attractive. And ... if you stick to being the kind of person you are ... you will attract others:

YOU JUST HAVE TO HANG IN THERE.

In many ways ... Jesus was soft. Tough, in some ways, on the inside. You have to be "tough" ...
spiritually "tough" ... in order to stick up for who you are.

Well ... Fred does "hang in there" ... and after a while ... LOOK ----- all these
"soft" balls start hangin' with Fred. Here is a chain ... they are all "hangin'" ----- soft footballs
and basketballs and golf balls and soccer balls

Fred feels good. I guess being "soft" is worth it.

In God's world ... in our world ----- the "tough ones" and the "soft ones" ... we can
be friends. We can learn from each other ... we can appreciate and love each other.

There is a "time for every matter under heaven" remember this verse? ... from Ecclesiastes.

A time to be tough ...

A time to be soft ...

And there is always a time ----- to be who you are ...

Here is your very own "soft friend" ...

Soft on the outside,

tough on the inside.