



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Choosing Gentleness

Week of 11.11.2019

- Do you know a gentle person? Describe them to the group.

BIG IDEA: GENTLENESS IS SPIRIT-SUPPLIED STRENGTH, TENDERLY APPLIED FOR OTHERS.

Galatians 5: 22-23; 6:1

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

- Leroy Candler shared how he had earned several customer service stars in a business where no one had ever earned one star. His secret to success – smile, listen, and empathize. What's so hard about that in the work you do?
- Gentleness is a way of dealing with something valuable; It means treating someone in such a way that he or she doesn't get damaged in the process of being handled. How does our lack of gentleness damage the ones we love?
How does the lack of gentleness damage our witness to non-believers?
What about our coworkers and those that report to us at work?
- Randy explained that gentleness is SPIRIT-SUPPLIED STRENGTH, TENDERLY APPLIED FOR OTHERS. Gentleness is a quiet confidence in God's strength to change what needs to be changed. Gentleness knows that if we could change others by the volume of our voice, the power of our rhetoric, the force of our personality, or the rank on our shoulders, Jesus would not have needed to come! Then Randy asked us, "Would others describe you as gentle?" What's your answer to that question?

- Gentleness is a needy heart that comes alongside another needy heart to share the heart of Christ. Gentleness asks, "What can I do today that would help you?" but it doesn't stop there. Gentleness asks questions to determine where the help is needed. What are some questions you might ask someone in need?
What stops you from asking those questions?
What stops you from helping?
- Some days, a loved one comes home after having a bad day and their bad day can turn into a bad day for you. That turns a moment of ministry into a moment of anger because we personalize what is not personal. His or her problem has messed with your day, your plan, your peace and you're not having it. Rather than ministering to his or her need, you want the problem gone so you can get back to what you were doing. How do you keep from making the problem about you? How do you respond in gentleness when a loved one pours out their stress on you?
- In Matthew 5:5, Jesus said: Blessed are the MEEK, for they will inherit the earth! Gentleness and MEEKNESS are the same words. Why will they inherit the earth?
(Wait for group responses.)

(Because they have stopped expecting the world to give what God has already promised!)