

## More Than Random - Gentleness

Questions for Fellowship Groups Week of June 18-24

Opening comments – In a culture that seems to reward and admire “get it done” over valuing others and treating them with gentleness, Michael’s sermon was timely and much needed.

Michael shared some opening verses established the heart of God being one of gentleness, yet just. You might want to review and assign these verses to be read during the meeting.

- Isaiah 40:1; Luke 1:76-79

Paul encourages the believers in Ephesus to walk worthy of their calling (living out who God has made them to be through His grace. "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

- Ephesians 4:1-3

These verses focus on the gentleness exemplified in Christ.

In Matt 11:29 we see the tenderness of Christ - take my yoke (climb into the object of work, stress and strain, but a yoke is always designed for two. Christ asks us to join Him and he will bear the load and show us gentleness up close and personal.

Mark 10:13-16 We see Jesus’ reaction to children - they are to be valued and not seen as possessions or nuisances.

John 8:3-11 speaks of the adulterous woman and His gentleness towards her and then His love to tell her to go and sin no more.

### 1. Gentleness is a strength esteemed by God. Proverbs 15:1

Strength is defined differently in our culture.

Ask, How does God see gentleness as strength in His economy?

Harshness is the opposite of gentleness.

Ask, What are some practical ways that you can turn your harshness into gentleness. (Dealing with spouse, children, co-workers, etc)

James 3:17 - wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle . . . Michael shared that sometimes we share our wisdom in a way that is harsh. Arrogance and selfishness both lend themselves to short-changing God’s work of gentleness in our lives.

### 2. Gentleness is a mark of Christian character.

Assign these verses to be read.

Ask, How do these verses relate to not only the idea of gentleness but possibly some ways that you can allow the Holy Spirit to allow you to live and show gentleness? Col. 3:12; Eph 4:1-3; 1

Tim 6:11

3. Disciples of Jesus are reflectors of God's gentleness with others. Gal 6:1; 2 Tim 2:25

Michael talked about that Schwinn bike he got as a present from his dad and wanting to remove the reflectors. Our gentleness is to be a reflection of God's gentleness at work in our lives. Manufacturing gentleness is really not gentleness at all but pride and arrogance. What is one way you are willing to reflect God's gentleness this week?

Gentleness many times is most difficult with those we know and love best. Scripture reminds us that gentleness is required in correcting the wayward and is not quarrelsome. It is obvious that we are not capable of doing this on our own. Yet God has displayed His gentleness to us over and over again. His grace and tenderness are beautiful.

Ask, Who is willing to share an experience of God showing you tenderness/gentleness in your life in the past few weeks?

Additional questions if needed and verses.

How impressive was Fred Rogers testimony to the US Senate in it's respectful and gentle tone?

Why are we most unkind to those we love the most?

1 Peter 3:15-16; 1 Thess 2:7; Titus 3:1-2; Eph 4:32