

STUDY GUIDE

BE: WEEK 3 10.19.14

[set up]

Go around the room and have everyone share something that God has been doing in their life in the past week.

Last week's study guide asked us to pray for anyone in the group who is going through a period of mourning. Take a moment check how that person is doing and pray for them. How can you mourn better or help someone else to mourn better?

[digging deeper]

This week we had a special guest, Gary Thomas, talk about the importance of being gentle as a follower of Christ, and Christ as the best example of how to be gentle.

By worldly standards, being gentle isn't always the best quality to have, especially if you want to get ahead in this world, but it is a really important quality in the life of a believer. Why do you think gentleness is so important? Read all or some of the verses below. What does the Bible say about how gentleness should be a part of a Christian's life?

Col 3:12 Gal 5:16-24 1 Tim 6:11
1 Peter 3:15-16 Gal 6:1

What does being gentle look like in normal day life? What does it not look like?

Your friend will let you down. Your spouse will fail you. Your children will disappoint you. Your pastor won't meet your highest expectations. Your Christian neighbor may occasionally act more like a monster than Jesus Christ. The time will come, therefore, when you will have a legitimate gripe. It's guaranteed. You will be right, and they will be wrong. This is the crossroads of gentleness. Which path will you take? Condemnation and censure, or the application of unmerited favor? Before you make that decision, remind yourself of how God has treated you.

Why is it so important to respond with gentleness even if someone has wronged you?

[living it out]

When others fail you, or when you fail, deliberately or not, how should you respond? (1 John 4:18) How can you pray to ask God to help you to respond?

What kind of effect do you think you would have on people if your first reaction in a stressful situation was gentleness and not being harsh with the person that caused the stress?

Who is someone you are having a hard time being gentle with? What's one practice that you will commit to this week to be more gentle?