

Trans
~~CONFORM~~
TRANSFORMING GENTLENESS

Philippians 4:5: Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

As we continue to learn what it looks like to stop conforming to the pattern of the world and allow God to transform us by the renewing of our mind, we're finding that the best way to measure the progress that we're making is whether we or others can see evidence of the Fruit of the Spirit growing in our lives. So far, we've looked at the amazing - supernatural fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness. We've learned that the world's idea and expression of these fruit is vastly different from God's principles and precepts as to what they really look like when they are a Fruit of His Spirit living and transforming us from within. This week we're going to look at the fruit of gentleness and once again - we'll see a huge difference in how God can utilize this particular fruit to make a huge improvement to our lives.

1A) First let's compare the world's view of gentleness with God's! Look up the definition of the words "gentle" and "gentleness" to discover the world's view.

1B) What are some synonyms for these words?

1C) What are we told about gentleness in the following passages?

2 Timothy 2:24-25 NCV:

Colossians 3:12 NCV:

Read Titus 3:1-7:

2A) What instructions are followers of Jesus given in verse 1?

2B) How did he explain why we should be willing to follow these instructions? Verses 2-6

2C) According to verses 6-7, how are we able to do this and how does this reveal that we can be transformed?

3A) What do we learn about the gentleness of God in Isaiah 40:11?

3B) Compare this verse to Psalm 23 and give specific ways that God fulfills this idea?

4A) PERSONAL: What does it mean to you to know that God is “gentle” with you?

4B) PERSONAL: How can God’s gentleness with you help you to be gentle with others?

5) PERSONAL: The world looks at gentleness or meekness as weakness, so how would you explain to someone that gentleness is actually “controlled strength” and give some practical examples of what this might look like in our world today.

Read Matthew 11:29-30 NCV:

6A) What did Jesus say about Himself?

6B) What does He want us to do and how can this help us?

6C) PERSONAL: How do you think responding with gentleness could transform the way we deal with people in our homes and in our daily lives?

7A) How does God’s Word tell us to deal with people who may be hateful to us or who are hurting?
Proverbs 15:1 NCV:

Proverbs 25:15 NCV:

Ecclesiastes 10:4 NLT:

7B) PERSONAL: How are you doing with the expression of the fruit of gentleness? What changes do you think you need to make?

ACT: The world’s concept of gentleness is very different from God’s. By growing this fruit in our lives, we can literally transform our hearts, our homes, and even situations with hateful or hurting people. God gives us the controlled strength through the power of the Holy Spirit to remain calm, to answer with a gentle and nurturing response, and to avoid anger and conflict through the expression of the Fruit of Gentleness. Being gentle with others is not easy, but it is a choice that we can make because we’re told to “let our gentleness be evident to all - for the Lord is near.”

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's read various passages that reveal what "gentleness" should look like in our lives.

Monday:

1 Kings 19:12 NCV

After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

Tuesday:

Zechariah 9:9 NCV

Rejoice greatly, people of Jerusalem! Shout for joy, people of Jerusalem! Your king is coming to you. He does what is right, and he saves. He is gentle and riding on a donkey, on the colt of a donkey.

Wednesday:

Matthew 7:15 NCV

"Be careful of false prophets. They come to you looking gentle like sheep, but they are really dangerous like wolves. rd and of his goodness."

Thursday:

2 Corinthians 10:1 NCV

I, Paul, am begging you with the gentleness and the kindness of Christ. Some people say that I am easy on you when I am with you and bold when I am away.

Friday:

Ephesians 4:1-2 NCV

I am in prison because I belong to the Lord. Therefore I urge you who have been chosen by God to live up to the life to which God called you. Always be humble, gentle, and patient, accepting each other in love.

Saturday:

Colossians 3:19 NCV

Husbands, love your wives and be gentle with them.

Sunday:

James 1:21 NCV

So put out of your life every evil thing and every kind of wrong. Then in gentleness accept God's teaching that is planted in your hearts, which can save you.

