

### Week 3: *Be Gentle – Trust God to Fight for You*

**ARRIVAL/CONNECTING and SNACK:** (15 Minutes) Spend time catching up and socializing with one another. Follow up on prayer requests and any action steps from your last time together.

**SHORT OPENING PRAYER FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER:** (2 minutes)

**SCRIPTURE READING:** (5 minutes)

Have someone read **Matthew 5:1-12** slowly enough for everyone to enjoy. Pause, then read again just **verse 5** and quietly reflect for a few minutes.

**Group Leader Notes:**

- Remember that blessedness is a spiritual state of being. Jesus is setting up what his spiritual kingdom looks like. These 8 “beatitudes” are steps by which we enter Christ’s kingdom and enjoy it to the full.
- Thayers definition of meekness: Meekness toward God is that disposition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting. In the OT, the meek are those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend them against injustice.
- To be meek is to fully yield and submit our lives to Christ the King.

**OBSERVATION and REFLECTIONS:** (20 minutes)

- What are some misunderstandings of what it means to be meek?

Have someone read **Matthew 20:25-28**.

- How does the world try to achieve success and security?
- How is Matthew 5:5 the very opposite of how the world tries to find meaning and fulfillment?
- What are some areas in your life that need to be yielded to God?

Read this quote: **A.W. Tozer, Pursuit of God:**

*“Jesus calls us to his rest, and meekness is His method. The meek man cares not at all who is greater than he, for he has long ago decided that the esteem of the world is not worth the effort.”*

- How does this quote by A.W. Tozer resonate with you personally?

Read **Galatians 5:22-25**.

- Based on this passage, describe the state of being that happens when we fully yield to the Lordship of Christ. Be specific?

**DISCUSSION:** (20 minutes)

- What are some ways that you have fought against God’s will and authority?
- What does living in a state of meekness look like for you? (Meekness is yielding to God)

**SURRENDER:** (15 minutes)

- Let’s get personal here - What is one area of your life, related to this discussion, that the rest of the group can pray for?

**PRAYER:** (10 min) Pray for one another in light of what has been shared.