

SMALL GROUPS

Leader Conversation Guide

Main Idea:

Gentleness is not weakness—it's **strength under control**. It's power surrendered to God's authority. True gentleness flows from awareness of what we carry, security in who we are, and gratitude for how we've been forgiven. When the world is loud and harsh, the Church shines brightest when it models strength wrapped in humility.

Make It Practical:

- **Gentleness ≠ softness.** It's *power under control, strength under surrender*.
- **Jesus modeled it first.** All authority, yet fully surrendered (Matt. 11:29).
- **Gentleness grows through three realities:**
 1. Awareness — knowing what and Who we carry.
 2. Security — knowing who and Whose we are.
 3. Forgiveness — remembering how He handled us gently.
- **Gentleness is not silence or passivity;** it's strength expressed through humility, patience, and love.
- **In a culture of hostility,** the Church's gentleness reveals God's greatness.

Key Scripture:

Galatians 5:22–23 NLT — “...the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit... gentleness and self-control.”

Matthew 11:29 NIV — “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart...”

2 Corinthians 4:6–8 NLT — “We now have this light shining in our hearts... our great power is from God, not from ourselves.”

Isaiah 40:10–11 NIV — “...He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms...”

Proverbs 15:1 NIV — “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Proverbs 25:15 NIV — “Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.”

Galatians 6:1–2 NLT / AMP — “Restore... in a spirit of gentleness... carrying one another’s burdens.”

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

Talk About It:

1. How has your understanding of **gentleness** changed after hearing that it’s *strength under control* rather than weakness?
2. Where in your life do you need to **surrender your strength** back to God’s control?
3. **Awareness:** What difference would it make if you walked daily knowing you carry God’s presence inside you?
4. **Security:** In what area of life does insecurity make your words or tone louder than they should be?
5. Who in your life needs a *gentle answer* right now instead of a harsh reaction?
6. How can your gentleness this week become a **witness** of God’s strength in a hostile world?
7. **Forgiveness:** Who do you need to handle with the same gentleness Jesus used toward you?
8. How can your small group intentionally “restore” someone gently this month (Gal. 6:1–2)?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for modeling **gentleness**—power under control, strength in surrender, truth with compassion. Holy Spirit, make us aware of the treasure we carry.

Remind us of our security as sons and daughters.

Teach us to extend the same gentleness You've shown us.

May our tone, our words, and our posture reflect Your heart in every situation.

Let our gentleness be evident to all. Amen.

Leader Tips:

- **Set the tone.** Start with a calm, unhurried atmosphere—gentleness begins with the leader's tone.
- **Model vulnerability.** Share a recent time you reacted harshly and how the Spirit reminded you of gentleness.
- **Prompt reflection.** Ask: "Where do I need to put a *Fragile – Handle with Care* label this week?"
- **Encourage practice.** Challenge everyone to intentionally respond with a gentle tone once daily this week—journal how it changes outcomes.
- **Celebrate growth.** At the next meeting, open with "Where did you see God's gentleness come through you this week?"