

Discipleship Groups

Week 36

As your people gather, welcome them, and help them to greet one another.

When it's time to begin, welcome them as a group. You are in the best position to judge what follow-up may be appropriate at the beginning of each week's session. You are the one in a position to make sure that there is a personal connection from week to week.

You may include the question that the early Methodists asked one another in their small groups: *How is it with your soul?* It is a personal sharing question. Assure your members that they are free to answer it in the way that they interpret it individually. The only wrong answer is an untrue one.

Next, we want a weekly opportunity to pray for one another. Use your judgment of where folks are at to ask, as it seems appropriate, "May we pray for you?" If the individual is amenable, you may have the group gather around for a time of concentrated group prayer for that person.

Finally, discuss together your experiences of WWJD? When did we ask the question? When did we know the answer or not? What difficulty, cost, or blessing came from doing what He would do?

After (1) the initial conversations, (2) the "soul question," (3) the prayer time, and (4) the WWJD debriefing, watch this week's video together. It can be downloaded or played from the website.

Following the video, turn your attention to these matters together:

- The video defines gentleness as strength that has been harnessed on behalf of someone else. Discuss that definition. Does it make sense to you? Does it resonate with you?
- Who in your life has embodied "gentleness" for you? In what way(s) was that person strong? In what way(s) did that person's strength(s) benefit you or others?
- Another way of thinking about gentleness is to consider the opposite effect. Think about situations in which an individual's strengths (physical, intellectual, verbal, emotional, etc.) make the people around them feel less safe, more apprehensive. Share a few examples.
- What is one of your strengths? When has that strength made others feel unsafe and apprehensive? When has that strength made others feel more safe and blessed? In what ways do you need to be more gentle?

Close the group in prayer. Then, before everyone is dismissed, remind the members about your next meeting time, and place, as well as encouraging them to pray for one another each day.