

Gentle and Lowly Small Group Guide

Week of 9.5.21

- Read the passage from Sunday together (Luke 15:11-32)
- Offer a time to discuss the sermon together.
 - Initial and final thoughts?
- Confessing times when you have been the older brother
- Introduction and Chapter One
 - On page 13, it says “*This book is written for the discouraged, the frustrated, the weary, the disenchanting, the cynical, the empty*”. What a fitting description for how this world feels right now for so many! Are you in this place, or have you been in this place? Share if comfortable.
 - Our book also shares that we “*...have been swept off our feet by perplexing pain and are wondering how we can keep living under such numbing darkness*”. The Bible is our source to combat this! What are conduits of grace in your life that God has used to remind you of his never-stopping presence with you?
 - Read Matthew 11:28-30 together. Jesus describes Himself and His own heart as gentle and lowly. These are His own words. How does His gentleness and lowliness invite you in to know Him more?

- The author of the book argues that there are good biblical grounds for placing gentleness, lowliness, and patience toward sinners and sufferers at the center of our understanding of the heart of Jesus. Does this feel like a lopsided representation of who Jesus is? Why or why not?
- Our book reminds us that our very need for Jesus is what gives us space to come to Him. *“You don’t need to unburden or collect yourselves and then come to Jesus. Your very burden is what qualifies you to come.”* How does this idea challenge your current or previous thoughts on how Jesus welcomes us in?
- How does Jesus’ self-description of his heart push up against our instinctive notions about his attitude toward our neediness, sinfulness and pain? In what ways is it surprising that the deepest attitude of the heart of Jesus toward sinners and sufferers is that of gentleness and welcome?
- Is this revelation of Jesus’s heart good news to you? Why?
- Spend time in prayer over this passage asking God to imprint these words on your own heart this week; that you will remember that even in Jesus’ pure holiness and perfection, He does not cringe at your coming to Him with your burdens. He welcomes you gladly full of gentleness and lowliness!