



GENTLENESS

*"But he was pierced for our transgressions
he was crushed for our iniquities"
Isaiah 53:5*



We were like Young Children

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

March 13th-19th

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ²We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. ³For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority.⁷ Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.



the Fruitful Life



WBS FRUIT STUDY

Passage: _____

FOUNDATION “

Write out any key or repeated words and phrases. What is the key verse of the passage? Pick a memory verse and write it out.

”

READ & REREAD

Read the passage in multiple translations. Notice any differences. Did anything stick out new when you read it again?

UNDERSTAND

Ask Questions of the passage. What does it teach me about God? What does it say about sin? What does it say about the gospel? What would you like to research further?

INTERPRET

Consult Commentaries. Use any commentaries or Study Bible notes to help answer some of your above questions. Write out any insights.

TAKE ACTION

Apply the passage. How does this passage change you? What is one action step you can take from it? Close your time by writing out a prayer from what you have learned.

We were like Young Children

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

**Remember to read the Optional Application

1. Read the following passages and write out how they define gentleness.

Proverbs 15:1

Philippians 4:4-7

Colossians 3:12-14

1 Peter 3:15-16

Matthew 11:28-30

2. Now read our passage in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12—how does this display gentleness?

3. Putting all this together, how would you define gentleness?

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:4 and Romans 8:27. What does it mean that the Lord “tests our hearts”? How does this challenge you?

5. Contrast the wrong way (v. 3-6) with the right way to share our faith? How is gentleness connected to our effectiveness in evangelism?

6. How was Paul like a mother to them (v. 7-8)? How was he like a father (v. 11-12)

7. Reading verses 10-12, what key words does Paul use to describe his posture and actions towards the Thessalonians? Have you had anyone in your life who has been this way towards you?

***Optional Application: Paul spoke of how he encouraged them. Calhoun¹ defines the spiritual discipline of encouragement as “to instill courage, confidence and hope through expressing the delight God has in others.” Find one person who you would like to encourage this week. Share a Scripture, write a note, or speak words that empower or build them up.*

¹ Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*. Downers Grove: Illinois, InterVarsity Press. 2005.

Pierced for our Transgressions

Isaiah 53

March 20th-26th

Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

4 Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11 After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.



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Pierced for our Transgressions

Isaiah 53

**Remember to read the Optional Application

1. What does it mean that God deals with us in gentleness? Think of specific instances where you have experienced that in your life? How does that make you grateful?
2. Read Isaiah 52:13 through chapter 53. How does Jesus fulfill this role of the suffering servant?
3. Read Philippians 2:5-8 and Hebrews 4:14-16. How does Jesus display humility and gentleness?
4. How might pride be a stumbling block to our being gentle?

5. Read Isaiah 53:1-3. Then, read Luke 2:1-20. How did Jesus' birth appear unimpressive? How did he not fill expectations?

6. Read John 10:18 and Isaiah 53:4-6. What does it mean that his death was voluntary? What does that say about how he feels about us?

7. Reading through Isaiah 53, how does this passage combine God's compassion and his justice?

***Optional Application: Taken from Calhoun's book on the Spiritual Practice of Compassion: "Become quiet and still. Get in touch with your desire to see Jesus. Read the crucifixion account in one of the Gospels. As you read, become one of the watchers: Mary, a disciple, a soldier, or a thief. What did you see from this person's perspective? What is it like for Jesus to be abandoned by those he counted on? What is it like for Jesus to find that God is silent? What is it like for him to submit to the aloneness, the pain, the nakedness? What desire drives Jesus to the cross? Let Jesus summon you into prayer."¹*

¹ Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*. Downers Grove: Illinois, InterVarsity Press. 2005.