



# CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Visible: Gentleness**



**RENAISSANCE  
CHURCH**

## Read

Our central passage for the *Visible* series is Ephesians 4:1-3.

<sup>1</sup> I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and **gentleness**, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

On Sunday Christian used Luke 9:51-54 to speak about *gentleness*.

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

<sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

## Reflect & Discuss

1. Do you know someone who exhibits the kind of *gentleness* (i.e., restrained power, approachability, friendliness) Christian spoke about in Sunday’s message? What are they like? What attracts you to them? Feel free to share a story to illustrate.
2. How does their way of life impact you and others positively?
3. Consider the three “equations” in the “mathematics of losing it.”
  - Desire = Deserve
  - I > You
  - Me + Jesus

How do you see these exhibited in the lives of the people around you? Share an example (without naming names).

4. How would you explain the mindset involved in each of these equations? In other words, what’s going on in the heart and mind of someone whose desire becomes something they think they are owed, who behaves as if they are more important than other people, who acts as if Jesus is supposed to do their bidding?
5. With which of these do you most often struggle? In what settings do you behave as if these are true? Share a story that illustrates this struggle.
6. Why do you think we struggle with exhibiting gentleness? What suggestions do you have for how we can grow in gentleness?

## **Personalize It**

Let's personalize and apply what we've been discussing.

1. In which relationship(s) do you need to grow in gentleness?
2. Where do you need to begin operating according to a different kind of "mathematics"?  
Pick one of the three equations that is most challenging for you.
3. How can we pray for you?