

ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHARACTER TRAIT: GENTLENESS

DEFINITION:

Responding in a kind and careful way

MEMORY VERSE:

"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowances for each other's faults because of your love." EPHESIANS 4:2

FINISH LINE:

We can respond gently when people are in tough circumstances

READ: John 11:1-44

WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

READ JOHN 11:1-27

1. How long did Jesus stay where He was after getting the message that Lazarus was sick? *(Two days)*
2. Look at verse 4. According to Jesus, why was this happening? *(For the glory of God)*
3. What did Martha say to Jesus when He got there? *("If you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died.")*
4. What did Jesus ask Martha? *(If she believed that all who believe in Him will have eternal life.)* What was her answer? *(Yes, you are the Messiah, Son of God.)*
5. What did Jesus have the power to do? *(Jesus could heal Lazarus and even bring him back from the dead!)*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (INTERPRETATION)

READ JOHN 11:32-44

1. How did Jesus show gentleness to Martha, Mary, and everyone else who mourned the death of Lazarus? *(Jesus was kind and compassionate. He did not act like their pain was no big deal. He mourned with them and showed them a gentle spirit. He reminded them of the truth about who He was and that they can trust in Him even in trials.)*
2. Why do you think Jesus was so emotional? *(It might have been because He saw the hurt that sin and death brought His friends and was upset that they had to live in a world that was broken and painful. He felt compassion and kindness for them in their sadness because He loved them.)*

WHY DOES IT MATTER? (APPLICATION)

1. Have you ever cried or been upset when someone you loved was hurting?
2. How can knowing that Jesus is in control of everything give you peace and hope when facing tough circumstances? *(Jesus loves us and is always with us even when we go through trials. If we believe Jesus conquered death and we accept His free gift of salvation, we get to live with Him forever in heaven, even after we die!)*
3. Who are some people that are going through a hard time right now? How can you show them gentleness this week?
4. What truths about God encourage you and can help others when in hard times?