

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 to the world in need

READ: MATTHEW 25:34-46

WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

READ MATTHEW 25:34-40

1. What did the King say to those on His right? What had they done? *(He said they fed and clothed Him. They gave Him something to drink when He was thirsty. They invited Him into their homes and cared for Him when sick and in prison.)*

READ MATTHEW 25:41-46

2. What did the King tell the others they did not do? *(He told them that they never took care of Him even when he was hungry, thirsty, sick, or in prison.)* Why were they confused at what He said? *(They said they never saw Him in need in any of these ways.)*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (INTERPRETATION)

1. Which of the two groups showed gentleness? How? *(The first group took the time to respond gently and cared for those who could not care for themselves, but the second group did not.)*
2. Did the righteous people earn eternal life by doing good works? How do you know? *(Read [Ephesians 2:8-10](#). It is not our good works that save us. God offers us the free gift of grace. We do good works to honor God who saved us.)*
3. Was it their lack of good works that kept the others out of the kingdom? *(No, nothing can make God love you more OR less. Faith in Jesus is the only thing that saves us.)*

WHY DOES IT MATTER? (APPLICATION)

1. Look at verse 35. What do you think it would look like for you to do these things today? How can you respond to someone who is hungry? How can you respond to someone who is lonely? How can you respond to someone whose clothes are worn out or do not fit? How can you respond to someone who is sick or in a hard time?
2. What are some other needs of people around you? What are some ways you can respond to them with gentleness this week?