

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 others are against us

READ: ACTS 6-7

WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

READ ACTS 6:8-7:1

1. How is Stephen described? (*A man full of God's grace and power, able to do miracles, wise, full of the Holy Spirit.*)

SUMMARIZE ACTS 7:2-50

Stephen countered every lie his enemies told with truth he knew from Scripture. He shared the truth of the Bible in hope that they would come to believe in Christ too, even though they were his enemies.

READ ACTS 7:54-60

2. Did the people like what Stephen said? What did they do? (*They refused to listen to what he said and were so angry they dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.*)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (INTERPRETATION)

1. What did Stephen's enemies convince others to do? (*They got people to tell lies about him. They said he broke the Jewish law and spoke against the Temple, law, Moses, and even God.*)
2. How did Stephen show gentleness? (*Even when they were stoning him, he prayed that God would forgive them.*)
3. What did Stephen believe that gave him the strength to respond in a calm and humble way? (*He believed Christ died for his sins and rose again. He was not afraid because he knew God was always with him. He trusted that the moment he died he would get to be with God in heaven forever.*)

WHY DOES IT MATTER? (APPLICATION)

1. Put yourself in Stephen's shoes. How would you respond? Would you take back what you said? Would you fight back?
2. Is gentleness a form of weakness or strength? Why? (*Strength. It takes a very strong person not to give in to anger or frustration but instead respond calmly and humbly. Anyone can get mad and fight back but strength is needed to trust God and be gentle.*)
3. Have you been laughed at because of what you believe? How did you respond? How could God help you respond gently in the future if this happens to you?