# Study 9: The Fruit of the Spirit- Gentleness

## Talk About

Share about how gentleness was viewed or expressed in your experience (family, school or workplace or culture). How can gentleness be confused with weakness?

## Scripture

During the time of James leadership in the early Church, there were some expressions of zealous Christian faith that unfortunately lacked the crucial fruit of gentleness. This portion of the letter helps us understand the how important gentleness is in the life of a Christian and how to grow it.

## Discussion

**GENTLENESS- Read James 3:13-18**

1. According to James, what is the mark of true wisdom and understanding? What is the role that meekness (Gentleness/Humility) plays in connection with wisdom?
2. James begins to paint a picture of what he calls “earthly wisdom” in v14-16. What are the two main ingredients of this “wisdom” (v14, 16) and how would you define them?
3. What is the nature of this “earthly wisdom” (v15) and what does it result in (v16)?
4. An expanded picture of “heavenly wisdom” is painted in v17,
   * List each of the qualities and reflect on what they mean.
   * What does this heavenly wisdom lead to and how do we grow it?
   * Why do you think gentleness is so crucial in this picture of heavenly wisdom?
5. How does this description of gentleness align with Jesus life and example? Do any particular gospel stories come to mind for you?
6. Consider some of the following scriptures – what do you learn about gentleness and how can we apply this to our lives?
   * 1 Kings 19:12
   * Proverbs 15:1, 25:15
   * Isaiah 53:7
   * Matthew 11:29, 21:5
   * 2 Corinthians 10:1
   * Philippians 4:5
   * Colossians 3:12
   * 1 Timothy 6:11
   * 1 Peter 3:15
7. In which areas or relationships might God be prompting you to grow in gentleness with His help? Take a step in this direction.

## Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in gentleness as you surrender your willingness to Him.

If specific situations come to mind, pray for these together, that breakthrough might come.