



Dgroup Discussion Guide for February 7, 2016

Primetime

Scripture: Genesis 26:15 – 35

Practice Responding In Meekness Every TIME

What is meekness? Meekness is from the Greek word “*praus*” which is used to describe a wild animal like a stallion that has been tamed. Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary defines this as *an active and deliberate acceptance of undesirable circumstances that are wisely seen by the individual as only part of a larger picture.*

Who are able to exercise meekness? Galatians 5:22-23 says “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*” (KJV) It is only when you are filled with the Holy Spirit then you can exercise meekness.

Respond in meekness when people envy you.

In Genesis 26:14 we are told that the Philistines envied Isaac. There was a famine but God had commanded Isaac to stay where he was and not go to Egypt. Isaac obeyed. Because Isaac obeyed, God blessed Isaac because in the midst of the famine Isaac planted and harvested a hundredfold.

This tells us that when we are being blessed by God there will be instances that people will envy us, criticize us and try to bring us down. The Philistine tried to jeopardize Isaac by filling up the wells with earth. Isaac, like his father Abraham was blessed and so the Philistines envied him to the point that Abimelech asked Isaac to leave because he was too powerful. Isaac could have fought and stood his ground, but instead of reacting Isaac chose to respond in meekness. He then departed and stayed in Gerar instead.

Isaac chose not to be confrontational. Choosing to be meek is not a weakness, but rather it shows strength under control.

Respond in meekness when people are unfair.

Again when Isaac reached Gerar and dug up the wells which his father had dug. When the herdsmen of Gerar saw this, they quarreled with Isaac’s herdsmen claiming that the water is theirs. And so he named the well Esek. (Gen 26:19-20)

AGAIN, Isaac did not react in anger but AGAIN in meekness. So he decided to dig up another well. And then they quarreled over that too, so he named it Sitnah. (Gen 26:21) This reminds us that obedience does not guarantee the absence of strife. Isaac obeyed the Lord and yet he continued to run into problems. Our obedience does not mean that we will go through life without trials. Jesus Himself said that that in this life there will be tribulations. We are encouraged that in every situation, we are to respond in meekness.

A true Christian sees God in the big picture over the circumstances he is in. Remembering there are no accidents and coincidences in the lives of those who follow Jesus. Instead of focusing on the things that are outside of our control, focus instead on the things that you can control.

Respond in worship.

Finally, Isaac moved back to Beersheba, where God had made the promise to Abraham. Here he had a personal encounter with God. God revealed Himself to Isaac and blessed him. Gen 26:23-24 God tells Isaac, “*I am the God of*

your father Abraham; Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants, for the sake of My servant Abraham."

God is reminding Isaac of who He is and of His promises to Abraham. Our assurances should come from God through His word. That is why it is important to know God's word. The secret to meekness is to be in an intimate relationship with God. Unless we know God intimately, it will be difficult for us to respond in meekness in the face of trials and difficulties. We should know God's character and His promises. Even when we are faced with envy, with criticism, with trials . . . we should continue to worship God.





It was after Isaac built an altar to the Lord, Abimelech came to speak to Isaac. Isaac asked why they had come since they hated him. But instead Abimelech tells him *"We see plainly that the Lord has been with you,"* (Gen 26:28).

The life of Isaac is an example for us to follow. He models for us how to respond in faith to the things that is within our control and to surrender to God the things that are not within our control. It is when we respond in obedience and meekness that other people will see that God has blessed us.

Isaac lived in the triangle of God's blessing. He kept his eyes focused on God and responded in faith with an attitude of meekness and obedience. Until we learn to respond this way, we will never experience what God can do in our life because we have not surrendered to God. Psalm 37:7 says *"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: Evaluate your heart. Do you have an intimate relationship with God? Do you truly know Him? Do you know His word? Are your eyes focused on God? Or are you easily distracted?</p> <p>Is there something that if taken away from you, would drive you to react in anger, in pain or fear?</p>
	<p>Family: Are you able to practice meekness in your response to your spouse? To your children? What can you do differently in order to model Christ-likeness?</p> <p>Are you as a family practicing living in the triangle of God's blessing? How are you working to intentionally live in this triangle?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Discuss with your discipleship group what are the things that continue to elicit a reaction and not a response. How do you intend to practice to respond in meekness every time.</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: In the light of all that is happening in the world today, how am I actively and intentionally sharing the gospel to those who are around me?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.