

DISCIPLING OUR CHILDREN THROUGH GOD'S WORD

Before His Enemies (Gentleness)

SCRIPTURE: From Matthew 26

KEY VERSE: ² Don't be proud at all. Be completely gentle. Be patient. Put up with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2 NIRV

SCRIPTURE PORTION TO SHARE:

⁵⁵ At that time Jesus spoke to the crowd. "Am I leading a band of armed men against you?" he asked. "Do you have to come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courtyard teaching. And you didn't arrest me. ⁵⁶ But all this has happened so that the words of the prophets would come true."

Then all the disciples left him and ran away.

Jesus Is Taken to the Sanhedrin

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest. The teachers of the law and the elders had come together there. ⁵⁸ Not too far away, Peter followed Jesus. He went right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see what would happen.

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for something to use against Jesus. They wanted to put him to death. ⁶⁰ But they did not find any proof, even though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally, two other witnesses came forward. ⁶¹ They said, "This fellow claimed, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God. I can build it again in three days.' "

⁶² Then the high priest stood up. He asked Jesus, "Aren't you going to answer? What are these charges that these men are bringing against you?"

⁶³ But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, "I command you under oath by the living God. Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

⁶⁴ "Yes. It is just as you say," Jesus replied. "But here is what I say to all of you. In days to come, you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One. You will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes. He said, "He has spoken a very evil thing against God! Why do we need any more witnesses? You have heard him say this evil thing. ⁶⁶ What do you think?"

"He must die!" they answered.

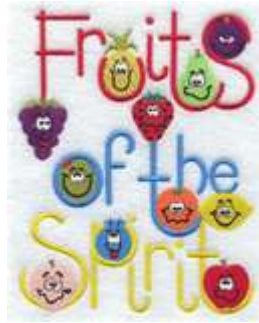
⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face. They hit him with their fists. Others slapped him. ⁶⁸ They said, "Prophesy to us, Christ! Who hit you?"

Matthew 26:55-67 NIRV

TALKING ABOUT IT:

1. How did the people act toward Jesus?
2. Did Jesus have the power to keep the leaders and the people from harming Him in any way if He had wanted to? How do you know?
3. Being gentle means that you have the power to take control, to show force or anger, but you choose not to. What can happen when we lose our temper and get angry?
4. When we are tempted to be angry and lose our temper, what can we do to prevent ourselves from doing so?
5. Pick a verse that your family can memorize about gentleness. Some suggestions would be Proverbs 15:1,2; Philippians 4:5; Colossians 3:12.
6. A family activity: Look for other examples of Jesus life when He showed gentleness in His life.

GENTLENESS



Usually we are not gentle. We yell and demand our own way. We think if we act tough that we'll accomplish what we want. Can you think of a time where you could have given a gentle answer instead of demanding your own way? For example: Instead of yelling at a brother or sister, you respond with gentleness. What do you think will happen?

If you thought of an example, write down how you should have answered instead of the way you did.

If you have a tendency to yell instead of giving a gentle answer, pray and ask Jesus to help change your heart so that you do the right thing.

The next time you may get into a fight with someone, write down what actually happened when you tried the gentle way of giving a gentle answer. Gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit

Read the story "Some Words are Like Medicine" and answer the questions.

SOME WORDS ARE LIKE MEDICINE



“I’m a doctor,” said Elaine. “Grandma said so.”

“Why did she say you were a doctor?” Elaine’s mother asked her.

“Grandma said, ‘When you come, it’s like good medicine.’ I tell her nice things, and it makes her happy,” answered Elaine.

“Well, maybe you are a good doctor for her,” said her mother. “I know a Bible verse about pleasant words. It says that pleasant words are like honey, which is good for a person.”

“Tell me the verse,” said Elaine.

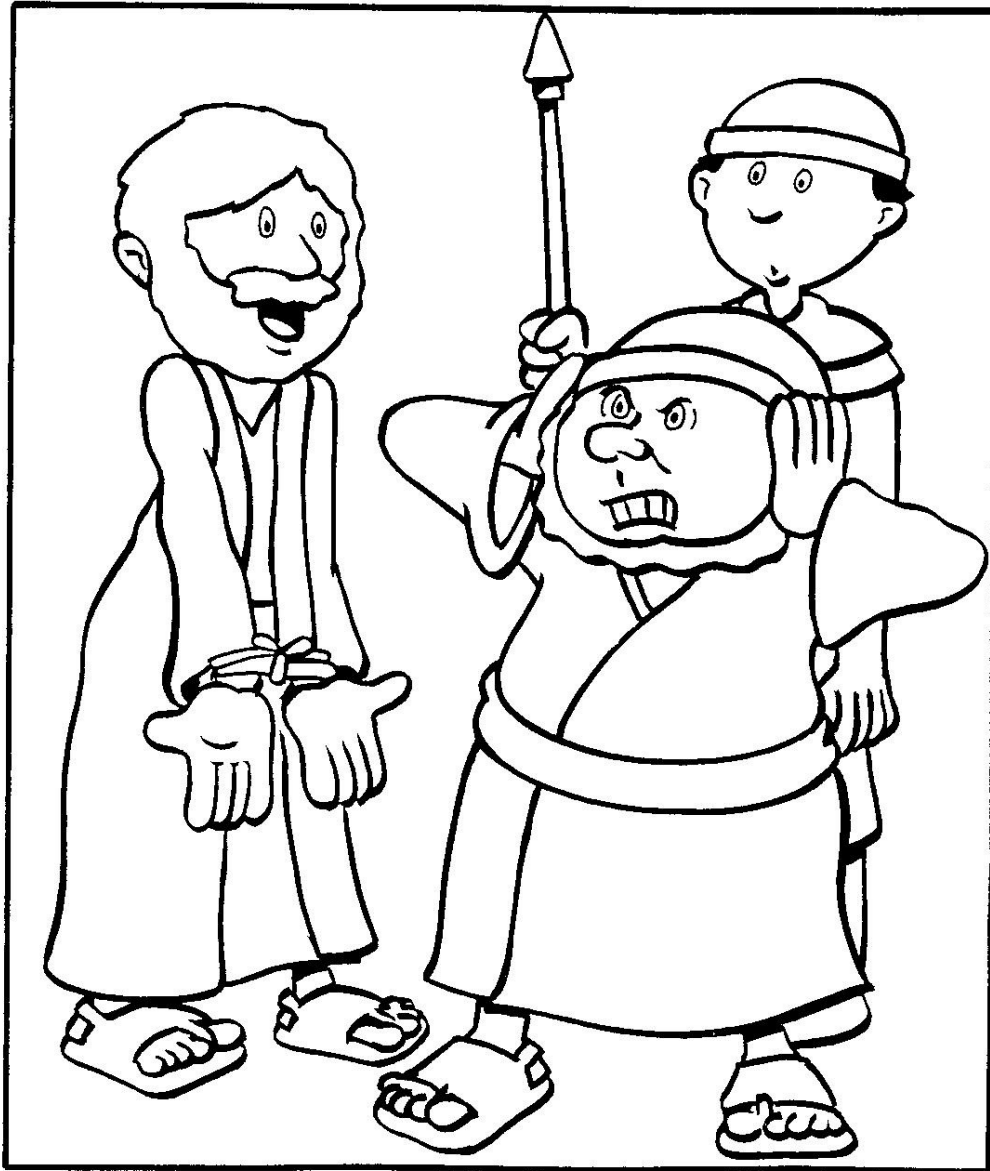
“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones,” said her mother. “In another place the Bible says, ‘A good word makes the heart glad,’ and ‘A merry heart does good like a medicine.’”

Pleasant words are like good medicine. When a person is feeling sad and you say some friendly words to him, it cheers him up and makes him feel better. Once there was a grouchy old woman cleaning rooms in a motel. One of the friendly guests told her, “I’m glad you keep things so clean. You do your work quickly, too” The old woman smiled. “I don’t hear things like that very often,” she said. For many weeks those words were like good medicine for her. They made her feel good.

“Your words can be like medicine too when your brother or sister may call you a bad name when they may not like something you did. It would be easy to call them a bad name too, but by not saying a bad name back or asking them to forgive you if you did something wrong can be like good medicine. It will stop things from getting worse and everyone getting into trouble and feeling bad. Jesus was called names and made fun of a lot, but He never said anything to these people. Instead, He showed love to them and spoke kind words. This was an example of Jesus being gentle.”

TALK ABOUT THE STORY:

1. Why did Grandma say that Elaine was a doctor?
2. What do pleasant words do for a person?
3. What does the Bible say about pleasant words?
4. When is it hard to find pleasant words to say to other people?
5. When is it easy?
6. Why does Jesus want us to speak pleasant words?



"LET YOUR GENTLENESS BE EVIDENT TO ALL." Philipians 4:5
Jesus showed gentleness when others were cruel to Him.