

Character Trait for Feb 26-Mar 2 is Gentleness

Philippians 1:9-10, "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ"

Character: the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Gentleness: Showing concern and personal consideration for others.

Derivation: **Gentleness** - the quality of being kind, tender, or mild-mannered. The Latin origin of the word gentle is *gentilis*, a term that means "of the same family".

Weekly Verse: Proverbs 15:1 "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Bible Story: Luke 18:15-17 is the story of Jesus blessing the children.

Quote: "Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength."

Application: (Taken from "The Daily Bread" 9/14/2014)

Charles Wesley (1707–1788) was a Methodist evangelist who wrote more than 9,000 hymns and sacred poems. Some, like "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," are great, soaring hymns of praise. But his poem "Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild," first published in 1742, is a child's quiet prayer that captures the essence of how all of us should seek the Lord in sincere, simple faith.

*Loving Jesus, gentle Lamb,
In Thy gracious hands I am;
Make me, Savior, what Thou art,
Live Thyself within my heart.*

When some followers of Jesus were jockeying for position in His kingdom, the Lord "called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven'" (Matt. 18:2-3).

Not many children seek position or power. Instead, they want acceptance and security. They cling to the adults who love and care for them. Jesus never turned children away.

The last stanza of Wesley's poem shows a childlike desire to be just like Jesus: "I shall then show forth Thy praise / Serve Thee all my happy days; / Then the world shall always see / Christ, the holy Child, in me."

*Father, give me the faith of a little child.
I want to know Your love and care, and to rest in Your embrace.
Grant my desire to be like You in all my ways that I might live for Your honor.*

Discussion Questions:

Would you say the culture that we live in values gentleness? Why or why not?

Can you name someone who you could describe as gentle? How do you feel about them?

Can you be successful and gentle at the same time?