



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Now And Later / Week 5

LEADER PREP

BOTTOM LINE

If you want to be heard, use gentle words.

SCRIPTURE

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (Proverbs 15:1 NIV).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students realize that choosing to use gentle words can help them keep their influence and lead to healthier relationships.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Leaders—the specific proverb we looked at this week mentioned “a gentle word.” Be sure to steer the conversation to include the body language we use and the tone we speak with. The truth is, teenagers are really good at getting a reaction from people. But, they’re oftentimes not great at getting the reaction they want—and part of that may be because they aren’t aware of the message their body language and tone is communicating.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Create meaningful conversation. Adjust the questions as needed, and don’t feel like you need to answer all of them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways you’re harsh with people that don’t involve words?
2. Which of the following ways of being harsh are you most tempted to use? Sarcasm, brutal honesty, social media, clapback, ignoring them.
3. Have you ever been on the receiving end of a harsh word? If so, what did that feel like?
4. Has someone ever responded to you in a kinder way than you felt like you deserved? If so, what happened?
5. Why does a “gentle answer” often diffuse a situation or argument?
6. What does mending a relationship look like after you’ve said something you now regret?
7. Without naming names, in what relationship do you need to start using less harsh words/tone this week?
8. In a culture where people often don’t use gentle words, why is it important for Jesus followers to be good at this?
9. What does answering with gentle words look like practically?

TRY THIS

Leaders—to wrap things up, spend a few minutes brainstorming ways we can calm ourselves down before responding/reacting in potentially triggering situations this week. (*e.g. count to 10 before responding, take 3 deep breaths, etc.*)