

# Gentle & Lowly

## Chapter-by-Chapter Discussion Guide

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### THE GENTLE AND LOWLY HEART OF CHRIST

#### CHAPTER 1: HIS VERY HEART

September 14, 2025

*Key Verse: Matthew 11:29 | Key Passage: Philippians 2:5-11*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- Why is it important to know Christ's heart?
- If an unbeliever asks about Jesus, how would you describe His gentle and lowly character?
- What is your natural instinct about who Christ is? How does that impact your relationship with Him?
- What burdens are weighing down your life right now? After reading, how would you describe the hope you have in Christ?

#### CHAPTER 2: HIS HEART IN ACTION

September 21, 2025

*Key Verse: Mathew 14:14 | Key Passage: Matthew 9:35-38*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- What is the difference between Christ's love and Christ is love?
- How do you maintain a healthy, balanced view of who Christ is?
- Christians frequently divide the roles of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. However, how might you explain the connection?

#### CHAPTER 3: THE HAPPINESS OF CHRIST

September 28, 2025

*Key Verse: Hebrews 12:2 | Key Passage: Hebrews 12:1-7*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- Does the truth of this chapter give you an excuse to sin? Why or why not?
- What is the significance of Christ sitting at the right-hand of God?
- Ortlund cites a quote from Thomas Goodwin that begins, "The glory and happiness of Christ are enlarged...." Read the quote and then explain what it means in your own words.
- What do you need to bring to Christ? Consider a recurring sin or something you are ashamed to think about.

## CHRIST'S EMPATHY AND PATIENCE

### CHAPTER 4: ABLE TO SYMPATHIZE

October 5, 2025

*Key Verse: Hebrews 4:15 | Key Passage: Isaiah 52:13-53:12*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- Why did Thomas Goodwin appreciate Hebrews 4:15 so much? What touches your heart about his description of this passage?
- In your own words, explain and describe what it means that Christ “sympathizes” with us.
- How close is Jesus with us? Ponder the phrase “in every respect” in a way that maintains Jesus’ sinlessness without diluting what that phrase means.
- In what circumstances of your life does it help to know that Jesus sympathizes with you?

### CHAPTER 5: HE CAN DEAL GENTLY

October 12, 2025

*Key Verse: Hebrews 5:2 | Key Passage: Hebrews 4:14-5:10*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- How does Hebrews 5:2 flow from what is learned in Hebrews 4:15 (the previous chapter)?
- What does it mean that Christ deals gently with people?
- Who is ignorant and wayward? Are you sometimes this way? How?
- Reflect on your own character. What does that reveal? Are you convinced that Christ will deal gently with you?

### CHAPTER 6: I WILL NEVER CAST OUT

October 19, 2025

*Key Verse: John 6:37 | Key Passage: John 17:1-26*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- What are some points of theology that a person learns from these verses? Does a particular point resonate with you?
- What do you learn from the John Bunyan quotes in this chapter?
- What objections can you raise about deserving Christ’s assurance? Why can you be certain that He will not cast you out?
- Have you ever felt cast out? How did you respond? How does what you learned help you to respond in the future?

## CHRIST'S RESPONSE TO OUR SIN

### CHAPTER 7: WHAT OUR SINS EVOKE

October 26, 2025

*Key Verse: Hosea 11:8 | Key Passage: Hosea 11:1-12:1*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- What does it mean to feel the weight of our sin?
- What is God’s response to sin?
- Answer the author’s question: What are we given when we are given Christ?
- What level of trust do you have in Christ’s willingness to forgive sin? Do you have any sin to confess?

## CHAPTER 8: TO THE UTTERMOST

November 2, 2025

*Key Verse: Hebrews 7:25 | Key Passage: Hebrews 7:11-28*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- How is intercession defined?
- Is the doctrine of intercession neglected today? Why or why not?
- What is the relationship between intercession, justification, and atonement?
- How do you need Christ's intercession for you in this moment?

## CHAPTER 9: AN ADVOCATE

November 9, 2025

*Key Verse: 1 John 2:1 | Key Passage: 1 John 2:1-6*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- What is the difference between an intercessor and an advocate? Why is Christ's role as both important?
- What does an advocate do?
- What is the significance of the word 'propitiation'?
- Why do you need an advocate? How does Christ's advocacy impact your life?

# THE BEAUTY AND MYSTERY OF GOD'S HEART

## CHAPTER 10: THE BEAUTY OF THE HEART OF CHRIST

November 16, 2025

*Key Verse: Matthew 10:37 | Key Passage: Matthew 11:25-37*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- What does Christ's heart reveal?
- What does Christ's heart indicate for Christians?
- How can you live in this reality?
- Ponder Christ's heart. How does Christ respond to your heart? How do you respond to Him?

## CHAPTER 11: THE EMOTIONAL LIFE OF CHRIST

November 23, 2025

*Key Verse: John 11:33 | Key Passage: John 11:28-37*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- How is Christ both human and divine? What does this mean for how He expresses emotions?
- What is the significance of emotions being impacted by the fall?
- Cite examples of Christ's emotions. How do Jesus' emotional responses help us in our emotional life?

## CHAPTER 12: A TENDER FRIEND

January 4, 2026

*Key Verse: Matthew 11:19 | Key Passage: Matthew 9:9-13*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- As a friend of sinners, did Jesus approve of sin? Why or why not?
- Define friendship. What does friendship with Christ look like?
- What role does mutuality play in friendship with Christ?
- Consider that Christ does not refuse your presence. If this is true, what do you want to share right now?

## CHAPTER 13: WHY THE SPIRIT?

January 11, 2026

*Key Verse: John 14:16 | Key Passage: John 14:15-30*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- What is the role and work of the Holy Spirit?
- Read John Chapters 14-16. Why did the Spirit need to come?
- How does the Holy Spirit connect you to Christ?
- Describe the Holy Spirit's work in your life. How do you know the Spirit is at work in you?

## CHAPTER 14: FATHER OF MERCIES

January 18, 2026

*Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:3 | Key Passage: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- How does God's love work with His judgment? (Remember chapter 11)
- What is mercy? How does it compare with grace?
- How is God's mercy relevant today?
- Describe a time when you deserved judgment but received God's mercy instead.

## CHAPTER 15: HIS "NATURAL" WORK AND HIS "STRANGE" WORK

January 25, 2026

*Key Verse: Lamentations 3:33 | Key Passages: Lamentations 3:22-33; Hebrews 12:3-10*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- Why is God's sovereignty important? What are some key principles of God's sovereignty?
- How are God's attributes perfectly balanced?
- How is God perfectly just? What confidence does this give you?
- What is your reaction when you are caught by surprise? Is God surprised? What does this mean for trusting Him?

## CHAPTER 16: THE LORD, THE LORD

February 1, 2026

*Key Verse: Exodus 34:6 | Key Passages: Psalm 86:1-17; Exodus 34:1-7*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- What other verses answer the question 'Who is God?'
- How is Christ the revelation of God's character?
- What does it mean that God is provoked to anger, but not to love and how is that significant for your relationship with God?

## CHAPTER 17: HIS WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS

February 8, 2026

*Key Verse: Isaiah 55:8 | Key Passages: Psalm 86:1-17; Exodus 34:1-7*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- Explain the concepts: People are made in God's image. People make God in their image.
- Consider the author's statement that people diminish the heart of God's pardon. Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
- How should you understand, "God's ways are not our ways?"
- Assess your relationship with God. Are you wandering? Do you need to return to Him? What needs to change?

## CHAPTER 18: YEARNING BOWELS

February 15, 2026

*Key Verse: Jeremiah 31:20 | Key Passage: Jeremiah 31:10-25*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- What is the significance of God's yearning?
- How is God's compassion and mercy manifested towards us?
- What does it mean to receive God's mercy?
- What do you need to repent of? How can you receive God's mercy?

## GOD'S UNCHANGING LOVE AND GRACE

### CHAPTER 19: RICH IN MERCY

February 22, 2026

*Key Verse: Ephesians 2:4 | Key Passage: Ephesians 2:1-10*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- Why is it significant that God is both loving and merciful?
- What is a person's natural inclination? What does it mean to be dead in sin?
- What evidence of God's mercy exists in life? How does that evidence impact you?
- Based on this chapter, how can you have confidence in God? Are there specific circumstances you need to trust in Him?

### CHAPTER 20: OUR LAW-ISH HEARTS, HIS LAVISH HEART

March 1, 2026

*Key Verse: Galatians 2:20 | Key Passage: Romans 8:31-39*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- Why would our hearts need to be aligned to Christ? How?
- How do our works 'minimize' the gospel and Christ's work?
- How does the gospel define who you are?
- Examine your life deeply. Who/what are you trusting? Works or Christ?

### CHAPTER 21: HE LOVED US THEN; HE'LL LOVE US NOW

March 8, 2026

*Key Verse: Romans 5:8 | Key Passage: Romans 5:1-10*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- Ortlund asserts our moment-by-moment relationship reveals our theology. What does your relationship with God reveal about your theology? Is it weak/strong?
- How do believers respond to sin? How should they respond to sin?
- What is justification? How has God provided for your justification?
- What's your mess right now? How does God sustain you during that mess?

## CHAPTER 22: TO THE END

March 15, 2026

*Key Verse: John 13:1 | Key Passage: John 13:1-20*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- Think about Christ's ministry. What did He endure during that time?
- Read Psalm 22:1. Why are these words so profound? How was Christ forsaken?
- What does it mean that Christ loved until His own end?
- What did Christ endure for you? In light of this, honestly assess your relationship with Him.

## CHAPTER 23: BURIED IN HIS HEART FOREVERMORE

March 22, 2026

*Key Verse: Ephesians 2:7 | Key Passage: John 3:16-21*

- What are your first impressions of this chapter, and which ideas or quotes were most significant to you?
- What does it mean to glorify God?
- It's worth asking again, is God's grace an excuse to sin?
- What do you look forward to most in eternity?
- Reflect on the reading. How will you be received in Heaven?