

Lesson Nine: Gentleness – A Parent’s Care

(read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12)

1. What words does Paul use to describe those in the church at Thessalonica?
2. Paul assumes his readers will know how “a nursing mother cares for her children”. What does this example indicate about gentleness as both action and internal attitude?
3. Why do you think Paul chose that specific imagery to describe his relationship with the Thessalonians?
4. Although Paul’s primary goal was to preach the gospel, how did he and his companions go far beyond that? Why (see verses 8-9)?
5. Why is sharing our lives with others a vital part of sharing the gospel message?
6. Some preachers have disgraced themselves and disillusioned their followers by living a double life. In contrast, what characterized Paul’s life (see verse 10)?
7. Why is it so important for our lives to reflect our message and our beliefs?
8. Why do you think Paul switches his metaphor from a nursing mother to a caring father at this point? What new dimension does it add?
9. How should the anticipation of God’s “kingdom and glory” motivate you to “live lives worthy of God” (verse 12)?

(Summary)

10. What might be the impact of gentleness on our relationships with those who don’t know God? How does bearing the fruit of gentleness in our lives make way for the good news of Jesus to go forth?

