

New Life Women's Ministry

Summer
Book Club



GENTLE AND LOWLY
BY DANE ORTLUND

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New Life Women's Ministry

Book Club

Hi ladies!

Welcome to our **Summer Book Club!** I can't wait to read along with you! My prayer is that throughout the Summer, you will grow in your knowledge of the Lord and His love for you.

I had first read *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund in 2025, and so much of the book hit home for me. As a teen and young adult, I had a skewed view of the Lord, that He would withhold His love and that His heart toward me would change depending on how "good of a Christian" I was. I am so thankful that through spending time in the word of God, I learned His true character and rejected lies from the enemy. Which is another reason I love this book: it constantly points to scripture, not just opinions.

This journal is designed to accompany our 8-week reading of this rich book. As you read, highlight areas that stand out to you, and after you finish a chapter, fill out the reflection question. We have a suggested reading schedule, but tailor it to suit you best!

We will have 2 book club meet-ups where we will come together, share a meal, and share how the book has impacted us. Mark your calendars now for **Monday June 29th and Thursday July 30th at 6:30pm in the New Life foyer.** More details will be shared as the dates get closer.

I hope that this book will be as impactful to you as it has been for me and that as you read the pages and the scriptures they point to, you will see just how unbelievable the Lord's love for you is!

-Abigail Smith

"Whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

John 6:37

Reading Schedule

June

June 7-13
Chapters 1-3

- Chapter 1
- Chapter 2
- Chapter 3

June 14-20
Chapters 4-6

- Chapter 4
- Chapter 5
- Chapter 6

June 21-27
Chapters 7-9

- Chapter 7
- Chapter 8
- Chapter 9

June 28 - July 4
Chapters 10-12

MEET UP | June 29 | 6:30pm
in the New Life foyer

- Chapter 10
- Chapter 11
- Chapter 12

July

July 5-11
Chapters 13-14

- Chapter 13
- Chapter 14

July 12-18
Chapters 15-17

- Chapter 15
- Chapter 16
- Chapter 17

July 19-25
Chapters 18-20

- Chapter 18
- Chapter 19
- Chapter 20

July 26-31
Chapters 21-23

MEET UP | July 30 | 6:30pm
in the New Life foyer

- Chapter 21
- Chapter 22
- Chapter 23

Theological Note

Gentle and Lowly was personally very impactful for me and helped deepen my appreciation for the compassion, mercy, and heart of Jesus toward broken and hurting people. This book beautifully points readers to the kindness and nearness of Christ, and for that I am deeply thankful.

At the same time, there is a small portion in Chapter 15 regarding pain and suffering where I would articulate things a little differently theologically. While I believe God is sovereign and can bring good even out of suffering, I personally do not hold the view that God is the direct giver of pain or evil to His children.

Even with that difference, I wholeheartedly appreciate the overall message and encouragement of the book.

"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, charity; in all things, love."

-Abigail Smith



Chapter

1

"This is why we need the Bible. Our natural intuition can only give us a God like us." (page 24) When you think of Christ, do you believe He has a gentle and loving heart towards you, or do you tend to think of Him frustrated with you? Do you know the root of those beliefs?

"The cumulative testimony of the four gospels is that when Jesus Christ sees the fallenness of the world all about Him, His deepest impulse, His most natural instinct, is to move toward that sin and suffering, not away from it." (page 30) What can we learn from His example?

Chapter

2

Chapter

3

What was the joy awaiting Christ? (page 39-40)

5

Chapter For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been

4

tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

Do you ever have trouble remembering that Christ sympathizes with your weaknesses, not just present when you are strong in your faith?

What is the difference between fixing your attention on your sin versus fixing your attention on Christ? (page 57)

Chapter

5

Chapter Why do we not feel the full weight and horror of our sin? (page 67-68)

6

Week 2: June 14-20

Chapter

7

"He sides with you against your sin, not against you because of your sin, He hates your sin. But He loves you." (Page 71) What does that quote pull out of you?

Do you regularly think of Jesus as interceding for you before the Father?

Chapter

8

Chapter

9

"Fallen humans are natural self-advocates." (page 92) Does reading 1 John 2:1, We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, bring any truth and healing to you?

Chapter

10

"When we come to Christ, we are startled by the beauty of His welcoming heart. The surprise is itself what draws us in." (page 98) Can you remember a time in your life when the beauty of God's heart drew you in?

"Release your debtor and breathe again." (Page 112) Is the Holy Spirit bringing someone to your mind to release?

Chapter

11

Chapter

12

What does the friendship of Jesus mean to you?

New Life Women's Ministry

Meet Up

Notes

Get Connected!

Keep in touch.

Name	Phone	Email / Socials

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Chapter

13

What aspect of the Holy Spirit is this chapter drawing out? Have you thought about this side of the Holy Spirit before? (page 121-122)

"Remember that this God, in whose hand is all creatures, is your Father, and He is much more tender of you than you are, or can be, of yourself." (page 133) What do you think of when you read that God is the Father of Mercies (2 Corinthians 1:3)?

Chapter

14

Write out Matthew 11:29.

Chapter

15

This chapter showed us that God is both just and good. He is wrathful and He is loving. He is "on the edge of his seat eager" to bless his children. His "compassion grows warm and tender" (141, Hos. 11:8). He will never withhold forgiveness from a repentant heart. There is never a time when comfort cannot be found in our Heavenly Father. What stands out to you in this chapter?

As you have been reading *Gentle and Lowly*, have you realized any misconceptions or assumptions you had about God?

Chapter

16

Chapter 17 Thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite. Isaiah 57:15. Underline the words that tell you where and with who the heart of God dwells. Is this a characteristic of God you have always believed?

Week 6: July 12-18

Chapter 18 What are some new ways that you thought about God's mercy because of this chapter?

Chapter

19

"Perhaps you have difficulty receiving the rich mercy of God in Christ not because of what others have done to you but because of what you've done to torpedo your life, maybe through one big, stupid decision or maybe through 10,000 little ones. You've squandered His mercy, and you know it. To you I say, do you know what Jesus does with those who squander His mercy? He pours out more mercy. God is rich in mercy. That's the whole point... It means our sins do not cause His love to take a hit. Our sins cause His love to surge forward all the more. It means one day when we stand before Him, quietly, unhurriedly, we will weep with relief, shocked at how impoverished a view of His mercy-rich heart we had." (page 179-180) What thoughts come to your mind when reading that quote?

Chapter

20

Do you ever feel like you attempt to gain right standing with God based on your works or "Christian performance?" (page 181-182)

13

Chapter

21

"When you sin, do a thorough job of repenting. Re-hate sin all over again. Consecrate yourself afresh to the Holy Spirit and His pure ways. But reject the devil's whisper that God's tender heart for you has grown colder, a littler stiffer." (page 194) When you repent of sin, do you believe God sees you as without blemish, or have you allowed lies to creep in doubting His full forgiveness?

Have you considered deeply what Jesus did at the cross? Explain in your own words what Jesus took on when he was nailed to the cross. (page 198-199)

Chapter

22

Chapter

23

...so that in the coming age He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace and kindness towards us. Ephesians 2:7. How does this impact your life? What new revelation do you have of the Lord's mercy and love for you?

Week 8: July 26-31

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Thank you for joining us as we went chapter by chapter through *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortland this summer!

To stay connected with other upcoming events led by the New Life Women's Ministry, visit nlcf.org/ministries/women/

NEW LIFE
WOMEN

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