



MEETING GUIDE

Session 4: God's Way Is Willing To Yield

October 14 - October 20, 2018

Hangout (30 Minutes)

1. Use the book [The Complete Book of Questions](#). Have one person pick a number 601 - 700. Remember, everyone has the right to pass on any question.
2. What is something you want most in relationships?

Watch the Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. Hosts can pick the questions they believe would be best for their group.

1. Read together out loud the focusing Bible verse for this series: **The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3:17** Based on this verse, we are learning God's way to experience what we want **most** in our relationships.
 - At the start of the sermon this week, what was your initial reaction to the statement, "God's way is **submissive**?" *Eupeites is the Greek word that is here translated "submissive".*
 - In the sermon, Pastor Steve revealed this continuum of how the Greek word *eupeites* has been translated in different versions of the Bible: **Friendly - Approachable - Considerate - Sensible - Open to reason - Easy to entreat - Obedient - Compliant - Willing to yield - Submissive**. The continuum starts with words that feel more comfortable and moves towards words that may feel less comfortable. In your relationships where do you draw your comfort line on this continuum? Explain your answer.
 - What was your reaction to these principles for interpreting the Bible?
 - 1) What a Bible passage actually says and means is more important to understand than what the passage "means to you" or your comfort with what the passage actually means.
 - 2) The first principle of Biblical interpretation is to use the Bible to interpret the Bible.
- 3) Pastor Steve used these Bible verses to argue that the translation of *eupeites* should lean more towards the *submissive* end of the continuum. After someone reads each passage, share which word from the continuum above you think the passage supports for the translation of *eupeites*.
 - *Jesus taught on being meek: "Blessed are the **meek**, for they will inherit the earth." [Matthew 5:5](#) "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am **meek** and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." [Matthew 11:29](#)*
 - *When describing Jesus riding into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Matthew chose this quote from the prophet Zechariah, "See, your king comes to you, **meek** and riding on a donkey." [Matthew 21:5](#)*

- “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Philippians 2:3-4

- *To husbands and wives, the Apostle Paul taught, “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*

Ephesians 5:21

- “You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.” Galatians 5:13

4) Martin Luther said, “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject of all.” What does this quote add to your understanding that God’s way is willing to yield? Is this a paradox for you? Explain.

5) When there is abuse in a relationship God does not want for us to give into the abuse, but rather to break free from the abuse. Which ones of the **Seven Steps to Break Free From Abuse** do you think are most necessary? Explain your answer.

- 1) Don’t keep it a secret. Tell someone safe who can help.
- 2) Name the abuse: Sexual, Physical, Emotional (aggravation, intimidation, denigration, humiliation, manipulation, domination, defamation, condemnation).
- 3) Don’t minimize or rationalize the abuse. Abuse is never right.
- 4) Help abuse victims to find a safe place if necessary.
- 5) Don’t confront the abuser by yourself. Get help.
- 6) Begin the healing process. Seek professional therapy and spiritual guidance.
- 7) Let God settle the score. Do not take revenge.

6) The take away from the sermon is “To get what you want most in relationships, be willing to yield to the other.” Explain how you agree or disagree with this statement.

7) What is one next step you would like to take from this week’s message and discussion?

Summary

God’s Way for experiencing what we want most in our relationships is being willing to yield. Jesus taught and lived this ethic. The earliest Christians brought a humility revolution to the Roman Empire as they lived out this way of God. When there is abuse in a relationship God does not want for us to give into the abuse, but rather to break free from the abuse. To get what you want most in relationships, yield to others and break free from abuse.

Next week we will learn that **God’s Way in our relationships is impartial and honest.**

Pray (10 Minutes)

Remembering that anyone can pass, go around the circle and have everyone share one prayer request they have. Listen carefully to the request of the person to your left, taking notes if it will help you remember. After everyone has shared, go around the circle again to pray for those requests by having the person to everyone’s right briefly pray for that person’s request. This could be a simple, one-sentence prayer like: “Dear Lord, please help _____ with _____.” The leader begins and ends the prayer.