



## Spiritual Influence – Week 2

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### Overview

In the second message of our *Fearless* series, we discuss the power of spiritual influence and how each of us are leaders who steward the influence God gives us.

#### Discussion Questions

We are called by God to influence others. He has given each of us a unique sphere of influence. We are leaders because we are influencers. We lead by shining light in the world and being salt of the earth (**Matthew 5:13-16**).

- Why do you think Jesus used salt and light to describe how we influence the world?
- What are some common challenges we face when we are light in the world?

#### Three Qualities of Spiritual Influence

##### 1. Humility

**1 Thessalonians 2:6** says, “**Nor did we seek glory from men, either from your or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.**” Paul is saying in this verse that he wasn’t looking for recognition. He was walking in humility. Humility isn’t demanding of others. Instead, it lifts, serves, and adds value to others.

- A common misconception about humility is that it is passive or feeble. Explain why these descriptions of humility are false.
- How does humility help us not to think too high or low of ourselves?
- Humility recognizes that our best is the Jesus in us. Explain the impact this statement has on the people we influence.

##### 2. Gentleness

**1 Thessalonians 2:7** says, “**But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.**”

Paul notes gentleness as one of the key characteristics of spiritual influence. A common misconception about a leader is that they are fast moving, hard charging, and bulldozing people. However, leadership qualities are about a person--Jesus. He was strong and gentle. **In Matthew 11:29**, Jesus says, **“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”** The real test of our influence is how people feel after we leave them. Do they feel like they’ve been genuinely loved, cared for, and lifted?

- A gentle spirit empathizes with others in every situation. Gentleness allows us to be compassionate and merciful so that we can relate to people no matter where they are. Share a time when the gentleness of others made you feel genuinely loved, cared for, and lifted.

### 3. Generosity

**1 Thessalonians 2:8-9** says, **“So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.”** Paul didn’t just share the Gospel with these Thessalonian Christians, but he shared his life sacrificially. Generous people add value to others by giving their time, talent, and treasure.

- We’ve been blessed to see an abundance of generosity in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. Why is generosity such a powerful influencer for the kingdom of heaven?

## Life Challenge

Pastor Steve challenged us with three questions all spiritual influencers should ask themselves:

1. How can I help them?
2. How can I serve them?
3. How can I leave them better than I found them?

May these be the questions we ask ourselves everyday as we go forth as spiritual influencers who are humble, gentle and generous.

## Prayer

*Father, we are thankful for the gifts, talents and treasure You've given us to be spiritual influencers for Your kingdom. Please help us, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, to be humble, gentle, and generous as we represent You to others. We thank You for the confidence You give us to light up the world until Jesus comes back. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.*