



Week 7



Welcome to week 7 of our On The Farm devo!! This week we are focusing on the fruits of the Spirit...gentleness and self-control! Gentleness and self-control are often very challenging fruits of the Spirit to practice and live out. Let's dive into our Bible story to learn more about these fruit.

Day 1: Learning Self-Control

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-13

Devotional:

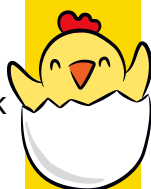
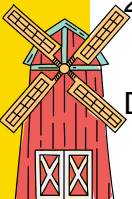
Jesus told this story about a father with two sons. The younger son didn't want to wait until later in life for his inheritance. He wanted it right now. Without thinking about the future, he asked his father to give him all his money, then he left home. Instead of saving or spending wisely, he wasted everything on things that didn't last. The son shows us what happens when we don't practice self-control. Self-control means stopping to think before we act. It means asking, "Is this choice pleasing to God?" The younger son acted on his feelings—he wanted to have fun, so he did whatever he wanted without considering the consequences. We can be like that too. Maybe we grab the biggest piece of cake without asking. Maybe we interrupt a friend because we're excited to talk. Or maybe we argue with our parents when they say "not yet." These are all times when we let our feelings control us instead of choosing self-control. God's Spirit living in us helps us pause before we act. When we wait, listen, or share, we show self-control—and that makes our hearts stronger and wiser.

Discussion:

1. In what area of your life is it really hard to practice self-control?
2. How can you allow God to help you with that?

Prayer:

Dear God, please help me to stop and think before I act. Teach me to use self-control like Jesus did. Amen.



Day 2: Learning from Mistakes

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:14-20a

Devotional:

After the younger son spent all his money, life became very hard. A famine came, which meant there wasn't enough food. He was so hungry that he took a job feeding pigs. He was so desperate, he wanted to eat the pigs' food! This was a big change for the son. At first, he had money, friends, and fun. But without self-control, all of that disappeared. He realized he had made a mistake. But here's the amazing part: instead of staying stuck in his bad choice, the son remembered his father. He thought, "Even my father's servants have food to spare. I'll go back and tell my father I have sinned." That was the beginning of a new choice—he decided to return home. We all make mistakes too. Sometimes we say mean things when we're angry or choose selfishly instead of kindly. The good news is that God doesn't leave us stuck in those mistakes. Self-control isn't only about stopping ourselves before we do something wrong. It's also about being humble enough to say, "I was wrong" and "I'm sorry." That opens the door for forgiveness and healing.

Discussion:

1. Why do you think admitting you've done something wrong is so hard?
2. How can you practice self-control this week after you've made an unwise choice?


Prayer:

Father, thank You for forgiving me when I make mistakes. Help me be brave and admit when I've done wrong. Amen.

Day 3: Showing Gentleness

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:20b-24

Devotional:



The son started walking back home, probably nervous and ashamed. He had wasted his father's money. He smelled like pigs. He planned to say, "I don't deserve to be your son—please let me be your servant." But before he even got to the house, his father saw him. Instead of waiting for the son to crawl back in shame, the father ran toward him! He hugged him, kissed him, and welcomed him back—not as a servant, but as his beloved child. Then he threw a party! This is what gentleness looks like. Gentleness is not harsh or quick to punish. It is soft, kind, and full of love. The father could have yelled, punished, or ignored his son. Instead, he showed compassion. When someone makes a mistake or hurts us, we often feel like lashing out. But Jesus calls us to show gentleness. Gentleness doesn't mean we ignore wrong things; it means we respond in a way that shows love instead of anger. That's how the father treated his son, and that's how God treats us when we return to Him. What a gift!!

Discussion:

1. How would you define gentleness?
2. Can you describe a scenario where you can choose to show gentleness?


Prayer:

Lord, help me to be gentle like the father in the story. Teach me to show kindness instead of anger. Amen.

Day 4: Choosing Gentleness & Self-Control

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:25-32

Devotional:



While everyone was celebrating the younger son's return, the older brother was outside, fuming. He thought it wasn't fair. He had stayed home, obeyed, and worked hard. Why should his brother—who wasted everything—get a party? The older brother let anger and jealousy control him. He refused to join the celebration. But the father came out gently, reminding him that he was loved too. Everything the father owned already belonged to him. This part of the story shows us something important: it's not only the younger son who struggled. The older brother struggled with anger and envy. Both brothers needed to learn self-control and gentleness in different ways. We might feel like the older brother sometimes—jealous of a friend who gets attention, angry when a sibling gets a reward, or upset when things don't seem fair. That's when we need to remember to use self-control with our feelings and show gentleness toward others. Gentleness and self-control aren't just "sometimes" choices—they are everyday ways we can live like Jesus.

Activity:

Draw two pictures: one of the son returning home to his father, and one of you showing self-control (like waiting patiently or sharing).

Prayer:

God, help me to celebrate with others instead of being jealous. Teach me to use gentleness and self-control in my life. Amen.

Memory Verse

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

