

The background of the cover is a classical landscape painting. It depicts a vast, mountainous landscape under a pale, overcast sky. In the foreground, several sheep are scattered across a rocky, grassy slope. One black sheep stands prominently on the right, while several white sheep are positioned further up the slope. The middle ground shows rolling hills and a valley with a small settlement or farmstead. The overall style is characteristic of 19th-century landscape art, with fine detail and a sense of atmospheric perspective.

Dane Ortlund

GENTLE
and
LOWLY

Study Guide

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Gentle and Lowly Study Guide

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INTRODUCTION

“Great truths are not meant to be hurriedly absorbed or quickly downloaded. They are meant to be slowly digested. Pondered slowly, reflectively, and thereby taken way down deep into our hearts to stay.”

DANE ORTLUND

The *Gentle and Lowly Study Guide* is designed to enhance your reflective reading and understanding of Dane Ortlund’s *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*. Through a number of questions, this guide leads you through small sections of the book, helping you ponder slowly Ortlund’s insights on the heart of Christ that are drawn from Scripture and some of the church’s greatest theologians. The hope is that this booklet will guide you through the book *Gentle and Lowly*, and, more importantly, into a deeper understanding of our gentle and lowly Lord and his heart for you: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matt. 11:28–29).

This study guide has been designed for use either in small-group discussion or in individual study. Leaders of small-group discussion will find the questions paced for multiple weeks of reflection and mutual growth. Those who use this study guide for individual study are nevertheless encouraged to find a discussion partner to work with together through this material. In doing so, appreciation for the deepest heart of Christ will intensify as one saint refreshes and sharpens another. May God grace you with his very presence as you pursue this study.

A NOTE ABOUT THE *GENTLE AND LOWLY VIDEO STUDY*

This study guide was designed to be used alongside the *Gentle and Lowly Video Study*, a companion 10-session video series featuring pastor Dane Ortlund.

Throughout this study guide, you will see prompts directing you to watch the corresponding teaching video. While these videos are not required in order to use this study guide effectively, they were specifically designed to reinforce the core message of the book while encouraging personal reflection and group discussion—leading readers to an ever deeper understanding of the heart of God for sinners and sufferers.

To learn more about the *Gentle and Lowly Video Study*, please visit crossway.org/gentleandlowlyvideo.

LESSON 1

I am gentle and lowly in heart.

MATTHEW 11:29



Chapters 1 & 2



Teaching Video 1

1. What role does the heart play in a person's life? What are the implications of this for what Jesus says about his own heart?

(pp. 18–19)

LESSON I

2. What are some of the ways in which the New Testament depicts the “lowly”? What does this teach us about Jesus? (pp. 19–20)

3. What difference does it make in your everyday life that “no one in human history has ever been more approachable than Jesus Christ”? (p. 20)

4. What does Jesus mean when he says, “My yoke is easy”? What does he not mean? (p. 22)

5. According to Thomas Goodwin, what misconception is Jesus correcting when he describes himself as “gentle and lowly”? How do you find yourself falling prey to that misconception in your own thinking? (pp. 23–24)

6. How do Jesus's actions throughout the four Gospels manifest his heart for sinners? To whom does he naturally gravitate?
(pp. 25–27)

7. Does stressing the compassionate love of Christ underemphasize other elements of his character? What considerations must we keep in mind as we answer this question? (pp. 28–29)

8. How is Jesus's natural impulse toward sin and suffering different from our typical instinct? What can we learn from his example? (p. 30)

9. How does Jesus reverse the interplay between the Old Testament categories of clean and unclean? What relevance does this have for your own life? (pp. 30–31)

10. How do we today receive and experience the same compassionate love that Christ demonstrated in his earthly ministry?

(pp. 32-33)

In his best-selling book, *Gentle and Lowly*, Dane Ortlund takes readers into the depths of Christ's very heart for sinners. Focusing on Jesus's words that he is "gentle and lowly in heart," Ortlund dives deep into Bible passages that speak of who he most deeply is, encouraging readers with the affections of Christ for his people.

Designed to be used in conjunction with the book, the *Gentle and Lowly Study Guide* helps readers reflect further on this wondrous biblical reality. This accessible resource features discussion questions organized into 10 lessons, with each lesson covering 2–3 chapters from the book. Perfect for small groups and individuals alike, the *Gentle and Lowly Study Guide* can also be used with the *Gentle and Lowly Video Study*.

DANE ORTLUND (PhD, Wheaton College) serves as senior pastor of Naperville Presbyterian Church in Naperville, Illinois. He is the author of *Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners* and an editor of the Knowing the Bible series and the Short Studies in Biblical Theology series. Dane and his wife, Stacey, have five children.