



## Session 2 Leader Guide

### TEACHING NOTES:

We all feel there is a certain way people should behave ... and when people don't act that way, we call it a "pet peeve."

Paul's word for patience is a term that combines long and tempered. In other words, patient people are not quickly overheated.

The next time you find it difficult to live with others, imagine what it is like to live with you.

We have eagle-eye vision when it comes to others but can be blind as moles when examining ourselves. So before you go pointing out the specks in the eyes of others, make sure you aren't sporting a sequoia limb in your own.

You would want any constructive criticism you receive to actually be constructive. Bearing with one another is thus best accomplished by mixing in some encouragement about what the person is doing right.

Jesus did with Peter what encouragers do. He called him out. He built Peter up. With the skill of a rock mason, he stacked stones of affirmation and inspiration upon his disciple.

Jesus gave his full attention to the desperate woman who came to see him. In spite of the pressing crowds, an errand to heal a sick girl, and questioning disciples, Jesus stopped what he was doing and listened. And then he affirmed her.

Ask to hear other people's stories. Resist the urge to interrupt them. Give them the rarest of gifts: your full attention.

## DISCUSSION:

1. How do you typically react when someone does that one thing that really gets on your nerves? How does this affect your mood and overall happiness?
2. In Ephesians 4:2, Paul instructed us to be "patient" or "long-tempered" with one another. What does it mean to be long-tempered? Would you say this type of patience comes naturally for you? Why or why not?
3. In Matthew 7:3-5, Jesus instructed us to examine ourselves before we examine others. How would examining yourself first help you to bear with others? What are some of your quirks that might get on their nerves?
4. Do you think Jesus had to be patient and bear with his disciples? How do you think Jesus—who was God made flesh—was able to be patient with those around him?
5. Read Matthew 16:17. How did Jesus encourage Peter in this verse? How do you think this made Peter feel?
6. Read Mark 5:25-34. How did Jesus encourage the sick woman? Have you ever felt encouraged by someone who listened to you? How did that person encourage you?
7. How did Jessica and Chase ultimately turn their marriage in a healthy direction? Does any part of their story resonate with you? If so, which part and why?
8. Think of someone in your life with whom you need to be more patient. How could you exercise more patience with that person this week?