

**Learn to Love:
Please & Thank You
LG Questions for 09/26/10**

Getting Started

On the TV sitcom *Seinfeld*, a favorite character is the “Soup Nazi.” In order to get his wonderful soup, you had to do everything the Soup Nazi’s way. You had to line up, stand up straight, no talking, no day dreaming, step up to the counter, state the type and size soup you wanted, and move to the right. Any deviation from this and the Soup Nazi yelled, “No soup for you!”

Too often we treat others this way. Instead, we should be affirming and encouraging each other with a gentle attitude, and above all, treating others the way we want to be treated. Without revealing the parties involved...share a time when someone demanded something of you in a way that seemed rude or controlling. How did that make you feel? How did you respond?

Getting Into the Bible

1) **Saying PLEASE** – Read Matthew 5:5. Without looking up the word *meek*, what do you think it means? Give an example of this word being lived out in relationship. (Note: *Dictionary.com* defines *meek* as: a) *showing patience and humility*)

2) How have you tried to manipulate God or others to get what you want in the past? How does that tactic work? Read Matthew 7:7-12. What are the antonyms for ask, seek, and knock? How does Matthew 7:12 bring motivation to our choices in relating to others? Share a current situation in which you need to put Jesus’ strategy of asking, seeking or knocking into practice.

3) **Saying THANK YOU** – Read Romans 5:6-8. How often do you think and meditate on the truth that Christ saved you from yourself? How often do you think we need to thank Christ for this? How should our thankfulness for Christ work in our own lives influence our ability to be thankful towards others?

4) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11-18. According to this passage...who needs encouragement? How does saying ‘Thank You’ fit into this passage? Who are the people in your life in which you find it extremely difficult to be thankful for? Why?

PRAYER

Our ability to say from the heart ‘Please’ and ‘Thank You’ is a condition of the heart. Spend time praying for one another’s ability to ‘love others’ with a heart condition that encourages practical expressions like saying ‘Please’ and ‘Thank You’.