

BEATITUDES

LEADER'S NOTES: LESSON THREE

Matthew 5:5 (Meek)

1. As a Life Group, invite one person to read Matthew 5:1 – 12 (The Beatitudes)

Choose one person to do this... try reading in a version that might be different than what most people in your group use. Some different versions & paraphrases include: The Message, New International Version, English Standard Version, New Living Translation, New King James Version, New Century Version, etc. If no one volunteers, please read since you are a leader(s) of the group.

2. What was one thing that stood out to you from Victor's teaching on "Blessed are the meek..."?

A few notes on this question—wait a few moments for people to answer (most people can't stand to sit in more than 8 seconds of silence). Second, if no one jumps at the opportunity to share, as the leader (s), please share what stood out to you.

3. Does our society view meekness as a strength or weakness? Why do you believe this is so?

Give a few moments for people to share. Allow people to give examples, but if someone in the group talks poorly about a world leader or celebrity, make sure to redirect their example and talk to them privately afterwards—graciously sharing with them that while what they might be saying about this individual is true, that it's not best to speak poorly of others in a setting where we are supposed to be discussing humility.

4. As a Life Group, name and describe some events from Moses's life. What makes Moses one of the "greatest characters in the Bible"?

Some examples of the events of Moses's life include, but are not limited to: being placed in a river, being found by Pharaoh's daughter, growing up in Pharaoh's house, killing an Egyptian, running from Egypt, working as a shepherd in the desert for 40 years, communicating with God whose presence was in a tree or bush that was on fire, returning to Egypt, leading 1.6 million Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, received the 10 Commandments from God, and the list can go on.

Not only did he appear with Elijah when Jesus was transfigured, but he was revered by the Jewish people in the first century as representing the Law. There could be many reasons why Moses is considered to be one of the greatest characters in the Bible. Some possible reasons include the fact that God worked through Moses, because Moses humbled himself before God, and so on. But Numbers 12:3 seems to give us the answer.

5. Read Numbers 12:3. Given his story and experiences, why do you think Moses is revered as a meek and humble man? Read Titus 3:2, James 3:13, and 1 Peter 3:4. How do these verses encourage us to pursue meekness and humility?

To increase involvement, try asking a different group member to read one of the passages listed here.

The examples of how humility is illustrated in each of these verses is obvious, as is how they encourage us to pursue humility. Give a healthy amount of time to discuss this question. And be sure to connect the examples to Matthew 5:5 if you can.

6. During the video lesson, Victor said: “When we look at leaders in the world of business, church leadership, nonprofit organizations, we think that those leaders need to have a voice that collects the masses, the perfect words to say when inspiration is needed, and an ability to weave and work through any situation...” Does that statement differ from how Jesus set an example of encouragement and leadership in His own life? Why or why not?

If no one is sharing, talk about how Jesus was ready for any situation that He faced because he was focused on God the Father over and above all things. We may not be fully prepared to handle the circumstances of life, but God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called (aka, He qualifies us through the presence of the Holy Spirit).

7. Take a few minutes to:

- **Identify and write down an area in your life where you need to be humble.**
- **What could you do to increase humility in that area of your life? Write down your ideas.**
- **Finally, if you're comfortable doing so, share what you've written**

with the group.

If you have a chance to give the group time to do this exercise, it would be good... but don't feel pressure to rush through the other questions (if you're having healthy discussion) to do this exercise. If you run out of time but still want to take part in this exercise one idea is for group members to do this on their own time during the week and share what they've written with other group members via email or text.