

FAMILY PAGE: BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

FAMILY QUESTION: HOW DO WE CARE FOR THE LAND & ENVIRONMENT AROUND US?

Meekness is a synonym of gentleness. In Jesus' day, land was meaningful and important and many people had their land taken away by people who used force and violence. Jesus promises the gentle, kind, and humble people ("the meek") will receive not just land, but the whole earth. Talk about the actions your family takes to take care of the earth's resources and living things. What space are you tending in your home? What could your family do to be more caring? How can you be more gentle toward each other? This is a great reminder that gentleness is not weakness, but strength. When we are gentle with each other and the world around us, we demonstrate we are strong caretakers.

BRIEF REFLECTION

A huge crowd of people followed Jesus. He saw their hurts and pains and cared for them in many ways. He led them to a mountain and told them about God's kingdom. You can think of a "kingdom" as the way the world works or is set up. In God's kingdom, there is abundance: more than enough honor, food, money, love, power, and resources for everyone to thrive.

Jesus says, "*Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*" When the people listening heard this, they immediately recognized it. Their worship songs, the Psalms (another part of the Bible), spoke of this. Psalm 37:11 says, "the humble will have land for their own." Land was very meaningful and important. To own land was to have a place in your community, to have honor, and a way to provide for your family. But most of the people Jesus talked to did not own land anymore. Landowners in their time were hated because they used violence to take that land. This is where Jesus again turns things upside down. With this promise, Jesus says the meek—the gentle, kind, and humble people—are the ones who will receive land. Not the people who use force and violence. And not just the physical land of Israel, but the whole earth. This also holds a powerful message for us about caring for the earth. Meek, or humble, people live with an awareness of others' needs—the planet, animals, and other people. They remember that the whole earth—everything they have and receive, including land—belongs to God. And they care for it with that in mind, using what they have with respect and love.

There's a good phrase for us to remember: "I am God's child, and everyone else is God's child too." This reminds us of two important truths. You are a special, beloved, unique child of God who deserves love and respect. And each person around you is another special, beloved, and unique child, deserving of love and respect. This is what a "meek" or humble attitude looks like. It means you don't see yourself or your needs as more important than the needs of those around you. When we are meek, we are truly free! We realize everything and everyone is a gift, worthy of love and care.

PRAYER

Generous Creator, We praise you for making this beautiful world! It all belongs to you! Help us use what we have and treat the earth with respect and love. We want to be gentle, kind, and humble—true strength in your eyes. Help us remember we are your children, and everyone else is too. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why was land so important to people in Jesus' time? How is land important today? What stories do you know of when land was taken from people?

How do you care for the earth?

What is an example of being meek or humble?

How do you make yourself aware of what others' needs are?

In the coloring page's blank space, write or draw what this beatitude looks like or means to you, or write or draw a modern-day version of the beatitude.

