

WEEK EIGHT

O THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE MEEK – FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH

BIG IDEA

Jesus showed us the

STRENGTH of MEEKNESS.

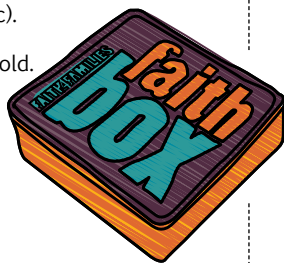
HIS DISCIPLES STAND UP FOR TRUTH, BUT THEY ARE NOT PROUD AND DON'T FIGHT TO BE FIRST

PREP

- Hide a wrapped sweet (or treat) in as many separate rooms as there are children.
- Ask everyone to come to Faith Box time wearing their favourite hat.

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- A bowl of stones and a bottle of water.
- Two men's ties (or strips of fabric).
- A blindfold.



INTRO

Remember how we talked about God's kingdom being different from the world we live in? God looks at things differently, and often it is the opposite of what we might expect.

When Jesus came he brought his kingdom to earth. And He told us to be happy because this kingdom, where the humble and the meek are the really great ones, is already here as we love Him and follow His commands.

Can you give me some words that would describe a meek person? What would a meek person be like?

The meek person is not pushing to be first, is happy to share with others, does not seek to be famous or popular, thinks about how they can help other people, wants to learn... etc.

OUT OF THE BOX

- Take out the bottle of water and the bowl of stones.
- Why is water so important?

Water is the most important thing in the world – every living thing needs water. But watch where the water goes when I pour it over the stones.

- Pour the water on the stones.

Does it try to stay at the top? No, it seeks out the low places. It goes to the bottom first.

Water shows us the way of humility and meekness – it actually goes looking for the lowest place.

Jesus told us not to put ourselves into the important spot but to let others do that. He also said that if we humble ourselves that God will lift us up.

Jesus showed us how to live meekly; even though He was the Son of God He was always willing to take a low position.

Sometimes people think that being meek is being weak and timid. Jesus showed us meekness is not being timid, but actually being very strong. Through Jesus, we learn that meekness is a particular brand of courage and strength that lets us stand up and speak up for truth and justice.

Questions

- Tell us about the hat you are wearing and why you like wearing it?
- Do you feel comfortable in it?

That's a bit like a meek person. They are someone who feels comfortable being the person God made them to be. They are not bossy and proud; but secure that they have their own special place in God's world and don't need to fight to be the top person. They are happy to learn from others.

GAME

- Take the two ties out of the faith box; pick someone to be the "animal", and someone to be the "farmer." Tie the end of each tie to the "animal's" wrists.

- An adult whispers to the "farmer" one of the places where a treat is hidden so the "farmer" can guide the "animal" to the treat. The farmer must guide without words, simply by gentle tugs on the left or right wrist to show whether to go left or right.
- Let each child have a turn being the animal and being guided to their treat.



FAMILY TALK TIME

Enjoy the treats while you talk.

- What meekness is – what meekness isn't.

Meekness is not being a doormat, but neither is it walking on other people. It is centred on God and surrounded with self control.

The Greek word for meek – *praus* – is one of the great Greek words that tells us what they valued. It was used to describe an animal which has been trained to obey the word of command, or has learned to respond to the tug of the reins. It is the word for an animal that has learned to accept control.

When we are meek, we let God guide us, and we can sense the tugs of God's Spirit that are guiding us in the right direction.

WEEK EIGHT

READ

Timothy was a young and an earnest disciple of Jesus, who became like a son to Paul, and accompanied him on many missionary journeys.

Timothy grew up in a home where his mother and grandmother both loved God with all their hearts and taught him the scriptures. He was smart and questioning and learnt so much from them, which stood him in great stead later on.

Timothy became friends with Paul, when Paul was preaching in the city of Lystra. Paul learned how much everyone respected Timothy because of his Christian character and love for God, and he was keen to take him along on his journeys.

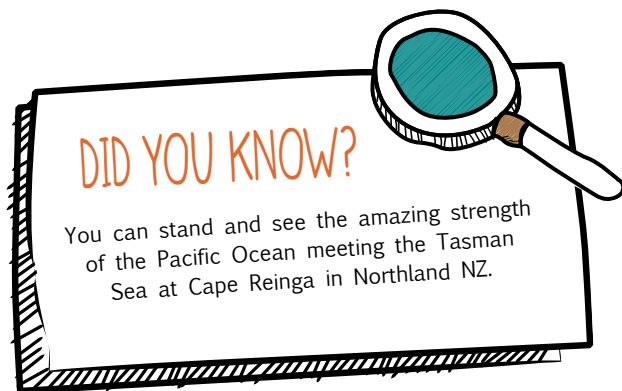
Timothy worked together with Paul and was happy to be a support and do whatever was necessary each day. Paul encouraged Timothy to be bold and stand up for what he believed. He wrote a letter to Timothy from prison, and encouraged him to not let anyone think less of him because he was young; but to be an example in everything he did. Paul also encouraged Timothy to use the gifts God had given him with faith and courage.

Especially, Paul warned Timothy not to forget the teaching of his mother and grandmother; and to value his knowledge of the Scriptures. Because, said Paul, “they are able to make you wise unto salvation.”

He wrote “*I constantly remember you in my prayers. I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.*”

2 Timothy 1:2-7

Timothy listened to Paul’s words and grew to be a wonderful leader. Everyone respected Timothy and he became the much loved leader of the church at Ephesus.))



FAMILY TALK TIME

This letter Paul wrote to Timothy is a reminder that we each need to learn to stand strong as God’s children. Just because he was young didn’t mean Timothy should be pushed around or bullied.

Questions

- Have you ever felt bullied? Why?
- What did you do?

If we are confident and self-assured we are less likely to be bullied.

“THERE IS NO ROOM FOR GOD IF WE ARE FULL OF OURSELVES.”

- MARTIN BUBER -

But don't forget: no bullying is ever OK, and we need immediately talk to someone who loves us if we are being bullied.

Being meek does not mean being a victim, and letting other people do bad things to us.

When we let God guide us, as the truly meek children of God, we are led back to inherit the earth that was created for us to enjoy.

PRAY

- Invite everyone to take a stone from the bowl.
- Holding the stone, take time to consider what is strong about a stone.

“Dear God please use me this week for good, and with your help, to be **strongly meek**.”

LIVE

This week put your stone somewhere you will see it regularly. Use it to remind yourself of the way of strong meekness.

EXTRA ACTIVITY

Crossword in the Appendix.



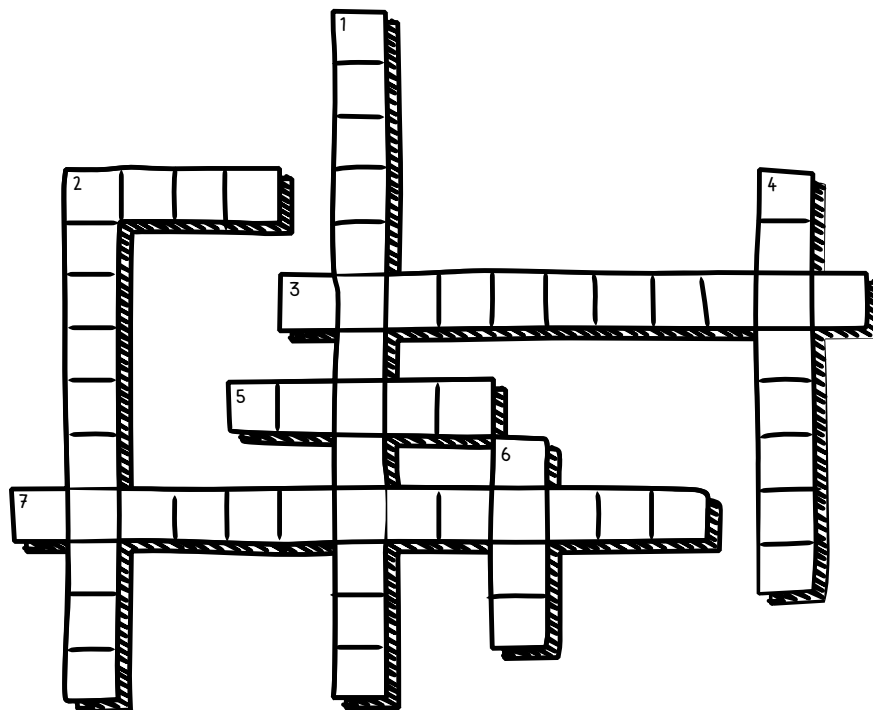
OTHER IDEAS

- Have the children retell the story of The Billy Goats Gruff... Who gets bullied in the story and by whom? Then make suggestions about how this story could end differently.
- Take some time this week to enjoy the beauty of the earth. Thank God that it is our reward and inheritance as we choose to let God be our guide.
- Over a mealtime, reflect on what meekness might look like in some of our relationships; e.g. friends, teachers, people we find difficult.

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU
NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...



WEEK EIGHT



QUALITIES OF MEEKNESS

- Doesn't push always to be first, or want to be famous or popular.
- Feels comfortable being the person God made us to be.
- Not bossy and proud
- Doesn't fight all the time to be the top dog.
- Willing to take a lowly position.
- A particular brand of courage and strength
- Lets us stand up and speak up for justice.
- Secure in God and surrounded with self-control.
- Feels anger but controls it without seeking revenge
- Accepts our own limitations as opposed to self-reliant pride.
- Puts the needs of other's before our own,
- Realises we are no more special than anyone else.

ACROSS

2. Blessed are the ____ in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. (vs.3)
3. Blessed are the _____, for they will be called the sons of God. (vs.9)
5. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted. (vs. 4)
7. Blessed are the ____ _ ____, for they will see God." (vs.8)

DOWN

1. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after _____, for they will be filled." (vs.6)
2. Blessed are those who are _____ because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. (vs.10)
4. Blessed are the _____ for they will be shown mercy. (vs.7)
6. Blessed are the ____ for they will inherit the earth." (vs.5)