

MEEKNESS OF MOSES

Lesson Aim: Let the Spirit of God produce the fruit of meekness in all believers.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson and insert the following questions where they fit the lesson for class discussion.

Introduction: The Israelites saw the LORD perform many powerful miracles to bring them out of Egypt, but they did not trust the LORD to take care of them when they left Egypt and were quick to blame Moses. His response to these people is a good example of meekness for all believers to follow. Meekness is not weakness, but it is gentleness combined with humbleness, condescending to the lowliest of people. "The fruit of the Spirit is . . . meekness" (Gal 5:22-23).

Why does the LORD harden some people's hearts? 14:4, 8, 17, 18; cf 8:32; Rom 1:18-32

The LORD desires all people to be saved (1 Tim 2:4) and has made provision for all people to be saved by the death of His Son for the sins of all people (1 Jn 2:2). But not all people will be saved because they harden their hearts against the LORD and His will (Ex 8:32). This is the opposite of meekness. The LORD foreknew this would happen, so He seals their hearts in hardness. It may sound like He initiates the hardening of their hearts, but He hardens the hearts of those He foreknew would rebel against His will (read Rom 1:18-32). The LORD hardens people's rebellious hearts and then triumphs over their rebellion to glorify Himself. This is what He did to Pharaoh and his army at the Red Sea. His triumph over Pharaoh brought great fear to the nations in and around Canaan, which was promised to Israel. It is a dangerous thing to harden our hearts against the will of the LORD, lest He seal it in hardness.

How did Moses show his meekness at the Red Sea? 14:8-14

When the Israelites saw Pharaoh and his army coming after them, they were alarmed and blamed Moses for taking them into the wilderness to die. Moses showed his meekness by graciously telling them that the LORD would save them from the Egyptians that day and they would see them no more. Be gentle with people that blame you for their troubles. Do not retaliate, but tell them about salvation.

How did the Israelites escape from being captured by the Egyptian army? 14:15-28

Moses obeyed the LORD by lifting his hand over the Red Sea and it opened a way of escape for the Israelites. The LORD kept the Egyptians in the dark by His cloud while the Israelites were crossing the Sea on dry ground. When the cloud was lifted, the Egyptians pursued after them through the opening in the Sea, but before they passed through the Sea, Moses lifted his hand over the Sea again and it closed in on them, drowning all of Pharaoh's army that was in the Sea. When you feel trapped by temptation, the LORD will make a way of escape, so you can have victory over it (1 Cor 10:13).

How did Moses show meekness in his song? 15:1-5

Moses did not take any glory for opening and closing the Red Sea when he lifted his hand over the Sea, but gave all glory to the LORD. He said, "(The LORD) is my strength and song . . . my salvation . . . my God . . . my father's God." Moses acknowledged that the LORD destroyed Pharaoh's soldiers in the Red Sea. You are meek when you give credit to the LORD for everything you accomplish.

How did Moses show meekness at the bitter waters of Marah? 15:23-25

The people had traveled for three days and had no water to drink. They found water at Marah, but the water was bitter. They spoke against Moses and asked, "What shall we drink?" Moses was meek: he did not speak against them, but went to the LORD for help. The LORD showed him a tree and told him to cast it into the water. When he did it, the water was made sweet. You will accomplish more by going to the LORD in meekness than by blaming the people for being unfair in their accusations (Mt 5:44).

How did Moses remain meek when Israel said he was starving them in the wilderness? 16:2-13

The LORD responded without any plea from Moses for help. He told Moses that He would give the people manna in the morning and quail in the evening. Moses humbly told his people how the LORD would graciously provide for their needs. The LORD will supply all your needs as well (Phil 4:19). You receive many supplies without asking, but sometimes He wants you to ask so you depend on Him!