

## **Flipped: Blessed Are the Meek Group Questions**

Have you ever tried to do a flip and, like Sean, landed on your back? On your face? Share about a time that you were disoriented, scared, or did something painful. Why might “flipped” be a good word to describe what Jesus was doing—teaching about and bringing his kingdom?

When was the last time you used the word “meek” in your normal life? Why do you think it can be a misunderstood word? Why do you think Jesus chose this word for a Beatitude?

Why is it important that meekness is not weakness?

How do you see power working in our world today? How about in the Church at large? What could be better, more Christlike?

Read Matthew 18:1-5. How has this passage been interpreted in your experience? Have you ever noticed that it's about “greatness” in the kingdom? Why do some refer to this passage in connection with “childlike faith” rather than greatness and status? How can understanding the context help us understand the passage?

Read Matthew 20:20-27. Left to yourself, would you have done what James and John did? Would you have done what their mother did? Would you have been indignant, like the “ten?”

How is Jesus an example of meekness?

Respond and discuss the quote by Henri Nouwen: “One of the greatest ironies of the history of Christianity is that its leaders constantly gave in to the temptation of power—political power, military power, economic power, or moral and spiritual power—even though they continued to speak in the name of Jesus, who did not cling to his divine power but emptied himself and became as we are....

What makes the temptation of power so seemingly irresistible? Maybe it is that power offers an easy substitute for the hard task of love. It seems easier to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people, easier to own life than to love life. Jesus asks, “Do you love me?” We ask, “Can we sit on your right hand and your left hand in your Kingdom?”

What would following the way of meekness – the way of Jesus – look like for you? For Saratoga Federated Church?

- Who are the low status in our culture?
- Who are the ones with no power?
- What does it look like to “become” like a child, be a servant, slave, and sacrifice as Jesus did—even when others do not understand?