



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of January 21, 2018

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a “worship discussion” guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Numbers 12:1-16 “Very Meek”

- Why is it hard to be humble?

¹ Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman.² And they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?”

- Who is Miriam? Read [Exodus 15:20-21](#) for more insight.
- Who is Aaron? Read [Exodus 4:14](#) for more insight.
- Why did Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses? What seems to be going on in their hearts?

And the LORD heard it.³ Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.⁴ And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.” And the three of them came out.⁵ And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward.⁶ And he said, “Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream.⁷ Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house.⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”

- The LORD heard Miriam & Aaron. How does He respond?
- In what ways does the LORD affirm the leadership & ministry of Moses?
- **What is “meekness”?**

⁹ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.¹⁰ When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous.

- What judgment does God pronounce? Why?

¹¹ And Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned.¹² Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb.”¹³ And Moses cried to the LORD, “O God, please heal her—please.”¹⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.”¹⁵ So Miriam was shut outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out on the march till Miriam was brought in again.¹⁶ After that the people set out from Hazeroth, and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

- **How does Aaron react to Miriam's leprosy?**
- How does Moses exemplify meekness?
- How does the LORD **answer Moses' prayer?**
- The New Testament draws many comparisons between Moses the mediator of the old covenant and Jesus the Mediator of the new. Read [Acts 7:37](#), [Matthew 11:29](#) & [1 Peter 2:23](#). How does Moses point us to Jesus?
- Read [Hebrews 3:1-6](#) & [Philippians 2:6](#). How does Jesus have a greater meekness & ministry than Moses?
- Take time to pray together. Ask our Heavenly Father for Christ-like meekness to pray for and serve others, even our enemies. Thank the LORD for the humility of Jesus Christ and His work on the Cross on behalf of His people.

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
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Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Numbers 12:1-16](#).

- Grumbling is contagious. It even causes rifts within families.
- Is this a racial issue?
- Is this a jealousy issue?
- Is this an issue of fear of being replaced / overshadowed?
- Is this a family issue where the youngest outshines the older?
- How does Moses respond?
- How does the LORD respond?
- “And the LORD heard it”
- The mercy of God in “hearing”
- The mercy of God in confronting and disciplining
- The mercy of God in the appointment of a mediator
- The mercy of God in the continuation of the story