

Week 6 | Is Jesus a Beaver?

key scriptures: Mark 14:55-65, Luke 2:42-47, Matthew 17:24-27

Objectives:

- Beavers see levels of details that others might miss. This can lead to avoiding mistakes or it can lead to frustration at the pace.
- Beavers can be hard to work with and also find it hard to work with others. The key is patience and a mutual respect of the other's strengths.

Why would anyone want to be a Beaver?

The Beaver personality type gets a very bad reputation. Boring, controlled, and absolutely no fun! Still, Beavers are great at getting the job done, even while everyone else is still standing around working on a plan. Beavers are precise, organized, detailed and know what needs to be done next. They're great at follow-through and completing detailed tasks.

Was Jesus a Beaver? Was He industrious and precise? Certainly. He came "in the fullness of time" (Gal 4:4); not a minute too soon, not a moment too late. He made sure there was plenty of food for the 5,000 and even a gold coin in a fish's mouth to pay his taxes.

No Drama!

One major characteristic of Beavers is self-control. Jesus came in the flesh to redeem all mankind. In doing so, he was tortured by the religious leaders of the time on his way to the cross. He had the power to command angels to rescue Him, but he held His peace.

Mark 14:55-65 (KJV) | ⁵⁵And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. ⁵⁶For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. ⁵⁷And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. ⁵⁹But neither so did their witness agree together. ⁶⁰And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? ⁶¹But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? ⁶²And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. ⁶³Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? ⁶⁴Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. ⁶⁵And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him,

Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

This desire for control and peace can make a Beaver an excellent organizer and leader, but when used in an unhealthy manner it will lead a Beaver to shut down creativity and potential innovation.

What would you do in a situation where someone spit on you? Would you be angry? Lose control?

Are "Peace" and "Quiet" the same thing? Why or why not? Can God talk to us only in quiet moments?

"Um, actually!"

Another major characteristic of Beavers is that they are usually experts in what they are doing (and like to share). When Jesus came to earth, He was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. When he was young, approximately 12 years old, Jesus came to the Temple at Israel, and began to teach on the scriptures. He was an expert since they were mostly about Him.

Luke 2:42-47 | *42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. 43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. 44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. 45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. 46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.*

Jesus was God in the flesh and therefore had all knowledge, but when he was in the “midst” of the experts, he listened and asked questions before he spoke. Could it be that his willingness to listen and ask questions gained him the respect that was needed for these doctors to hear the voice of a 12 year old boy? The expression of knowledge and understanding is great when it is applied appropriately. Healthy Beavers will share knowledge to those in need and use their expertise to the benefit of others. Unhealthy beavers can be perceived as a “Know-It-All” and can turn away those who just want a simple answer. Beavers sometimes have trouble handling other’s ideas of how things should be done. This makes working as a team difficult. Many beavers become loners as a result.

How do you share the Gospel? Do you share too much or too little? Which is harder: saying 10 words or 100? Why? What’s the best way?

Have you interacted with someone who wanted to “overshare”? How did you handle it?

Do the Right Thing

Beavers have an innate desire to do things correctly and in order. When they get an item which requires assembly, they will lay out all of the pieces and read the instructions fully before starting. That is not necessarily a bad thing! Beavers want to do everything “just right”. They always pay their bills on time (or even early) and have a plan for emergencies. Jesus knew that the Roman government required tribute (taxes) to enter a city. Neither He nor his disciples had a lot of money, so Jesus performed a miracle to cover for the disciples and himself.

Matthew 17:24-27 | *24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? 25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? 26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. 27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.*

Have you ever had to choose between doing the “right thing” and doing what was fun? What was the outcome?

All in all, Beavers belong in the Kingdom of God. Bake sales need to be organized and well-run. Literature needs to be printed and distributed appropriately and the bills need to be paid. Beavers get the job done! The problem comes when they let a desire for control and quiet to “quench the Spirit” and to ignore the leading of God.

Until Next Week | Your assignment for this week, if you are not a Beaver, is to be on the lookout for opportunities to keep your peace, even in difficult times. Make a plan and keep it. Make a note of how it felt to accomplish that goal.

If you are a Beaver, step outside of your comfort zone. Stretch your skills and do something without a plan. Take the time to listen during a conversation, even when you know the answer. Reflect on how it felt.