



THE HUMBLE KING

Disciples & Early Church • U7# 2 1st-3rd Gr. • Jan.12, 2025

Concept

Jesus is the perfect example of humility.

Goal

Students will learn what it means to be humble and to place others needs before their own needs, like Jesus.

Passage

Philippians 2:1-11

Key Verse: "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves." Philippians 2:3 NLT

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Yardsticks (or equivalent pieces of wood), 4/room</i>• <i>Small paper plates, each stapled to end of a yardstick, 4/room</i>• Cookies, 1/student & teachers <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dry erase marker• <i>The HUMBLE King</i>	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two-sided, printed paper with faces, 1/student• Scissors• Markers• Scotch tape

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information (for the teacher)

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"The call to humility has been too little regarded in the Church because its true nature and importance have been too little understood. It is not something which we bring to God or He bestows. It is simply the sense of entire nothingness, which comes when we see how truly God is all, and in which we make way for God to be all...

"Christ found this life of entire self-renunciation, of absolute submission and dependence upon the Father's will, to be one of perfect peace and joy. He lost nothing by giving everything to God. The Father honored His trust and did all for Him... And because Christ had thus humbled Himself before God, and God was ever before Him, He found it possible to humble Himself before men, too. He was able to be the Servant of all. His humility was simply the surrender of Himself to God, to allow the Father to do in Him what He pleased, no matter what men around might say of Him, or do to Him...

"It was because this humility was not only a temporary sentiment—wakened up and brought into exercise when He thought of God—but the very spirit of His whole life, that Jesus was just as humble in His fellowship with men as with the Father. He counted Himself the Servant of God for the men whom God made and loved. As a natural consequence, He counted Himself the Servant of men, that through Him the Father might do His work of love. He never for a moment thought of seeking His honor, or asserting His power to vindicate Himself. His whole spirit was that of a life yielded to God that He might work in it...

"Brethren, here is the path to the higher life. Down, lower down! This was what Jesus always said to the disciples who were thinking of being great in the Kingdom, and of sitting on His right hand and His left. Seek not, ask not for exaltation; that is God's work. See to it that you abase and humble yourselves, and take no place before God or man but that of a servant. That is your work, and let that also be your one purpose and prayer...

"What a solemn thought, that our love to God will be measured by our everyday fellowship with men and the love it displays [see 1 John 4:20]. How solemn that our love to God will be found to be a delusion, except as its truth is proved in standing the test of daily life with our fellow-men. It is even so with our humility. It is easy to think we humble ourselves before God. Yet, humility toward men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real...

Incorporation Lg. Group



Activity Stations:

- **Craft – Changing Picture of Tax Collector and Pharisee**
 - **Instructions:** Give each student one 8½" x 11" sheet printed with faces, etc. The top section is the faces of the Pharisee and the tax collector; the bottom section is the "smile/frown lever" and Tabs. Color the faces and cut the sheet along the "cut here" straight line. Fold top section (with faces) along the dotted line. Cut out the rectangles in the faces where the mouths will be and cut the marked slits on either side of the faces to put lever through; unfold. Cut out "smile/frown lever." Starting from the left side, weave the "smile/frown lever" through the slits beginning from the top, going down under, then over, under and then back up on the other side. Cut out the Tabs and tape Tab A and Tab B to each end of the lever. Tape Tab C over the slits between the two faces to cover the "smile/frown lever." Pull the lever side to side to make the Pharisee frown when the tax collector smiles and the Pharisee smile when the tax collector frowns.

Introduction Lg. Group

Last week we began our study from Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. In Philippians 2, Paul tells us that we should be humble like Jesus. The first step in humility is to honor others by thinking of and serving them before ourselves. It is up to us to choose what we will do, what we want or to serve others. Our key verse is "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

Transition

Let's start with a challenging game.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

GAME - THE COOKIE RIDDLE

Goal: To cause students to think of others above themselves.

Instructions: Divide the students into 4 groups. Place 2 chairs facing each other 4' to 5' apart and another 2 chairs facing each other 4' to 5' apart. Have a group line up behind each chair. Have the first student in each line sit in the chair. Hand them the yardsticks with a paper plate stapled to the far end and place a cookie on each plate. Have them repeat the key verse, They then must find a way to eat one cookie without (1) dropping it from the plate, (2) touching the cookie on their plate with their other hand or (3) moving their hand up on the stick. When they eat a cookie, they hand the stick to the next person in line for their turn. Repeat. Note: the idea is that the students must serve their cookie to the other students across from them instead of eating their own. It may take a while for them to catch on, so you may need to set a time limit for each pair. Give clues as needed.

Introduction: We're going to try to solve a riddle. I am going to give you a task to do which will seem impossible if you follow the directions. But I have a clue. If you think about giving more honor to others than yourself, you may be able to figure out the secret to solve the riddle and accomplish your goal.

Learning Activity#1 Continued

Transition

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

Debrief: You solved the riddle when you thought about how to honor each other by serving one another. The first step in honoring others is to begin by being humble and thinking of others before we think of ourselves. Sometimes it's fun to serve others, sometimes it's hard. Sometimes we don't feel like honoring other people even though we know it's the right thing to do. Sometimes we'd rather think only about what we want. It is up to us to choose what we will do, what we want or to serve others. What's our key verse?

Let's go back to our classrooms and learn more about humility. Everyone come sit down.

DRAMA - "Who's Humble?" Skit Presented by the Puppet Team

Debrief: Which person in the puppet show thought he was great? (The Pharisee did.) He thought he was good enough to be accepted by God. He was proud of all the things he had done. He gave some money to the women whose husbands had died and children who had no father or mother, he didn't eat two days each week and he gave money to the church. These are very good things to do. But he had a serious problem. Because he did those things he thought he was better than others. He thought those things made him good enough to be accepted by God.

Which person in the puppet show knew that he was a sinner and not good enough to be accepted by God? (The tax collector knew.) The tax collector was humble. Rather than talk to God like some big shot, he asked God to forgive him and accept him.

I have an object lesson to give you a visual picture of what it means to be united or one in Christ.

As you've seen, it is not humble to think you are better than anyone else. It is humble to look at yourself as God sees you and turn to Him for His forgiveness and mercy. But there's more to it than that. Let's see what being humble meant in the way Jesus lived.

Let's turn to Philippians 2 and we'll read verses 1-11. Listen as I read. We read about Jesus' humility. Jesus is God the Son. Everything in the universe belongs to Him and should honor Him as Creator and King. Yet Jesus chose to become a man and live with us on earth. Rather than demanding that people honor or serve Him, He served others by placing everyone's needs before His own. Let's look closely at the passage to see how He did that.

Instructions: The chart below is a suggested example of the Biblical answers given in the passage. Allow the students to come up with the answers in their own words as they look at the passage. Write the headings: Gave Up, Accepted, Result on the white board and record the students' answers below the headings.

This column (Gave up) stands for what Jesus gave up to become a man. Can you think of some things that Jesus gave up? (Write answers in the Gave Up column.) Now, when He gave those things up, He accepted some other things instead. What were they? (Write answers in the Accepted column.) It seems like a pretty unfair trade for Jesus. Now look at the Bible passage again. What were some of the results of Jesus' humbling Himself? (Write answers in Result column.)

- **Gave Up (vs. 6,7)**

- his place with God / living in Heaven
- the use of his divine attributes
- being honored
- no pain
- power
- all the rights that God has

- **Accepted (vs. 7,8)**

- life on earth
- became like a servant
- being rejected by the people
- born to be a man / a human body that could hurt & die
- death on a cross / death as a criminal
- humbled himself and was fully obedient to God / complete dependence on God rather than depending on himself
- made himself nothing

- **Result (vs. 9-11)**

- God raised him to the highest place / to heaven
- God made his name greater than every other name / God gave Him glory
- every knee will bow to the name of Jesus—everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth / everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord / all will honor Him as Lord
- He brings glory to the Father
- we can live in heaven with Jesus
- example for us of humility and unselfishness (vs. 3-5)

Why did Jesus do this? Look at verses 9-11. He humbled Himself. He thought of others as more important than Himself because he knew what the result would be. Our key verse is Philippians 2:3.

Jesus is the perfect picture of humility. He looked for what others needed instead of trying to get people to serve Him. He took the punishment we deserve and gave His life to free us from our sin. As a result, all who ask Jesus to have His death pay for their sin have eternal life. Then, as Christians, we can choose to honor and serve others. People are able to be in relationship with God because Jesus humbled Himself and we will have opportunities to introduce others to Jesus when we are humble too.

Lesson Continued

Transition

Learning Activity #3 Sm. Groups

I'm going to read a story that will help you see what humility looks like.

STORY - *The Humble King*

Instructions: Read the attached story.

Let's get into small groups to discuss this story.

Goal: The goal of this discussion is to help the students see where they identify with arrogant attitudes and behavior and where they identify with humble attitudes and behavior. Help them to consider how they can grow in their desire and ability to treat others with more honor than themselves.

- Do you remember what the King was like and how he treated the people?
- Do you remember the nobles? Why do you think the king wanted to teach them a lesson?
- What did the nobles do or how did they act to show that they were proud?
- How do we know that some of the nobles became humble? What was their attitude?
- How does it show when someone is proud? What might their attitude be and how do they treat others?
- When someone is humble, what might their attitude be and how do they treat others?
- How can we develop a humble attitude? It begins by thinking about how much God loves you. Then you will choose to serve others rather than thinking about how you can get what you want.

Missions Prayer: Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving Campaign.

Let's pray now and thank God that Jesus was willing to humble Himself so He could come to save us. Those of us who have received God's forgiveness can ask Him to help us think about ways to be humble and serve others.