

Kid's Slot –April 30-May 6

Humility

OVERVIEW: Team Player (Humility of Jesus) • Put others first.

PREPARATION: Bibles, Wads of Paper or balls for each child, 3 Baskets (bowls, buckets, trash cans, etc)

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: Philippians 2:3-8, NlrV .

ICEBREAKER:

- Ask kids to share about situations when it's hard for them to be last in line. What makes it hard?

READ: Humility

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How does the world pressure you to put yourself first at the expense of others?
2. Close your eyes and try to imagine a world where nobody put others first? What kind of world would that be? What does it look like? Are the people happier? What does it sound like? What words do you hear? What else are imagining about that kind of world?
3. Now do the opposite and imagine a world where everyone is concerned about others and puts others first. How does this world differ from the other one you just imagined. Which world would you rather live in? So why do you think Jesus asks us to take last place and put others first?
4. What's one way you can take last place this week?

Humility

Welcome to life group! We have a hard topic today- Humility. Value others more than yourselves.' I've got to be honest—that's one of the hardest things in the world to do! I might be able to value others as EQUAL to me, but to put their needs and wants AHEAD of my own? That doesn't sound like fun at all. It sounds like a lot of hard work, doesn't it? So how do we do it? Our Bible verse today says, "Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves." Philippians 2:3 (NlrV)

Well, the good news is, we've got a perfect example of humility that we can look to. Any guesses? (*Pause to let them respond.*) That's right—Jesus! As followers of Jesus, we can look to His life as the perfect example of humility.

The Bible verse that we read out loud a minute ago, that's actually a part of a letter that Paul wrote to the Jesus followers in the city of Philippi. Let's read that verse again, along with a few more lines from that letter.

(*Read Philippians 2:3-8, NlrV.*)

'Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did. In his very nature he was God. Jesus was equal with God. But Jesus didn't take advantage of that fact. Instead, he made himself nothing. He did this by taking on the nature of a servant. He was made just like human beings. He appeared as a man. He was humble and obeyed God completely. He did this even though it led to his death. Even worse, he died on a cross!'

So what does that mean for us? I mean, if I thought it was hard to be humble BEFORE reading this, and now I see that Jesus humbled Himself to His own death? Humility sounds pretty impossible!

So think about this with me for a second: Jesus is the Son of God. He is perfect, without blame, and He was willing to give up His seat at

the right hand of God to come down as a baby born among animals. He spent His life serving others, and then He gave up His life for people who didn't even believe He was the Son of God. Jesus was so humble that He was willing to sacrifice His own life for you and me? How can we ever live up to that?

Well, the good news is that we don't have to live up to that. This verse talks about giving up what we want to put others first.

But that can be hard to do, huh? What do you think humility looks like in our lives? We're going to put your humility knowledge to the test with a little basketball game.

I'm going to read three stories. When I finish, I'll give you three options for the humble way to respond. Each of you will have 3 wads of paper/balls to kick into the basket and vote for what you think is the best answer. Let's play ball!

"Story 1: You've saved up your money to buy a brand new video game and your mom has promised to take you to the store after school to buy it. But when you get off the school bus, your neighbor greets you and explains your mom got tied up with a problem at work and won't be home until dinner. How do you respond to your mom with humility when she arrives home from work?

- A) You pout and stay in your room until she comes in and apologizes for messing up your day.
- B) You recognize that your mom is probably exhausted after a hard day at work, so you offer to help her with dinner and clean up, and you wait to ask her about the game until she seems less stressed.
- C) You aren't mad, but you greet her at the door by asking her when you can go get the game.

Nice job, you guys! If you voted for 'B,' you're exactly right. Let's talk about this for a second. 'A' is clearly not a humble response. But 'C' isn't a TERRIBLE option, is it? I mean, at least you didn't yell or pout or cry. But you still were thinking yourself and what you wanted, and not thinking about the bad day that your mom had. 'B' is a great way to respond with humility, by putting your mom's needs ahead of your

wants. Way to go, you guys!

"OK: Story 2: You're trying out for the school soccer team, and you and your best friend are up for the same position. The day arrives when you find out who made the team, and your best friend gets the position that you wanted. How do you respond?

- A) You mumble "congratulations" to your friend, but find another table to sit at during lunchtime.
- B) You just leave. You can't handle pretending to be happy for your friend.
- C) You go around telling the good news to everyone that day that your best friend made the team.

Nice job, you guys! If you voted for 'C,' you've got this humility thing figured out. I know it seems a little crazy to imagine going around celebrating your friend's victory when you're sad that you didn't get what you wanted, but did you know that it's pretty hard for gratitude and resentment, or thankfulness and jealousy to exist at the same time? It's true! If you can find a way to celebrate with your friend even when you're bummed that you didn't get what you wanted, you will likely find that humility feels MUCH better than pouting or being bummed out. Okay, we've got one more story!

"Story 3: Your teacher has a box at school that has all sorts of cool treasures in it. You and your friend both love collecting bouncy balls but there's only one left in the box, and you happen to know that it's your friend's favorite color. Since you get called up to the treasure box before your friend does, you can grab it. What should you do?

- A) Get the bouncy ball, but whisper to your friend on the way up that you're getting it for her.
- B) Leave the bouncy ball for your friend, and pick out another fun little treasure for yourself.
- C) Ask your teacher if you can switch turns with your friend and let her go first.

Way to go, everyone! This one was a little tricky, but if you voted for

'A' or 'B' or 'C' then you know what humility is all about! There are all sorts of different ways to respond with humility in any situation you face, but what matters is that you put others first! Way to go, everyone! You guys really rocked that game. You can have a seat for a minute.

Let's go back and read that section of verses one more time. (*Read from Philippians 2:3-8.*)

'Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did. In his very nature he was God. Jesus was equal with God. But Jesus didn't take advantage of that fact. Instead, he made himself nothing. He did this by taking on the nature of a servant. He was made just like human beings. He appeared as a man. He was humble and obeyed God completely. He did this even though it led to his death. Even worse, he died on a cross!'

Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. The very Son of God humbled Himself to become human—to live the life of a servant and die on a cross for us.

Putting others first does not come naturally to us. We live in a world that's all about putting ourselves first. Jesus lived in a world like that too. He could have looked out for Himself, called 10,000 angels to come and rescue Him at any point. But He didn't. Out of His love for us, He chose the humble route and put us first. It cost Him everything.

RETURN:

Return to the Life Group and have the kids share their **Bible Verses or Craft Activity**. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time. Or, you could watch one of the many, many awesome kids' videos available to you on www.rightnowmedia.org – it's free!

From a Whisper to a Shout (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Look up the verse and say it together.
- Then, repeat the verse as a group, but this time, instruct kids to shout the words "don't," "proud," "humble," and "others."
- The third time you say it together, ask kids to whisper the words "don't," "proud," "humble," and "others."
- The fourth time, instruct kids to clap instead of saying "don't," "proud," "humble," and "others."
- The fifth time, lead them in stomping their feet instead of saying "don't," "proud," "humble," and "others."
- If time and interest allow, let kids think up their own actions to do in place of the key words.

What You Say:

"You guys have done a great job learning the memory verse this month! When we think about this verse, we should think about these important ideas—don't be proud; be humble."

Boss of Me

What You Need: Construction paper, markers

What You Do:

- Hand out the paper and markers and ask kids to draw a picture of a person who is in charge.
- As they draw, ask them about who and what they're drawing. Ask them about some things their "boss" would say.
- Instruct kids to write down something that a boss would say. Suggest they maybe draw a speech bubble on their drawings and write a quote in it.
- You may need to help younger kids write.

What You Say:

"People who are in charge can sometimes be bossy and think they are more important than everyone else. Today we heard about someone who put himself last, even though He was the boss over everyone."