



Date: _____

Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus
Winter Year 3, Lesson 44

Humble Hearts Can Shine for Jesus

Primary Scripture: Ruth and Philippians 2:4-11

Key Verse: Philippians 2:4, “Don’t be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Typically, children will see the entire world as revolving around themselves and their needs. To gain a broader perspective, children need to be more aware of others' needs and the many ways they can help them. The heart of humility is considering others' needs above your own. It is the very heart that Jesus demonstrated as he gave himself for us. It is through Jesus' power that we can be like Christ.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus humbled himself for our sake by becoming obedient all the way to the cross.

Jesus in us: Jesus' powerful humility comes to us as he indwells us by his Holy Spirit.

Jesus through us: Because of our humility before God, the very humility of Christ can shine through our lives to others.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: a piece of cardboard or poster board with a heart shape cut out and covered with colored plastic wrap, a flashlight or lamp, a second flashlight to read the Bible passage, Bible

When the time comes, backlight the cardboard with a flashlight or lamp so light shines through the heart shape opening. The effect from this will illustrate humble hearts shining for Jesus. The light will be used throughout the morning.

Ask the children if they know what a humble heart is. After taking various answers, turn the lights off. Turn on the visual humble heart and read the passage from Philippians 2:4-11.

Then explain humble:

To be "humble" means we are not just looking out for ourselves. We also look out for others when we are humble before God. We want to serve God. Jesus served God by humbling himself all the way to the point of dying on the cross for us. Because Jesus did that, God lifts us up and honors us for serving him.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

I'm going to tell you a true story about a boy named Mike. Mike was a pretty good student. He got mostly B's and C's on his report card. But Mike wanted to be smarter – he wanted to be the smartest kid in school. So every time he got an A, he bragged about it to anyone who would listen.

Shonda, on the other hand, was probably the smartest girl in the class. She got straight A's. She knew she was smart, but she didn't want others to feel bad, so she never bragged even when she got 100% on a test.

She always smiled and said, "Way to go, Mike!" whenever he bragged to her about a grade he got. And even if she got a higher grade than Mike, which she usually did, she never said, "I got a better grade than you!" She just said, "Way to go!" or "Good for you!"

Which child do you think other kids wanted to have as a friend – Mike the bragger, or Shonda the humble one? (Shonda.) Why?

Take one or two answers from the kids.

Have any of you ever bragged like Mike? I think probably most of us have.

Let's confess our tendency to want to be the smartest, the fastest, and the strongest person. Let's ask God to forgive us for that and ask him to help us be humble and gentle and kind and caring, like Shonda – like Jesus.

Dear Jesus, you never ever bragged – ever. You had all the power of the universe at your disposal, but you never used it to give glory to yourself. You even told people not to tell others about the miracles you performed. Forgive us for wanting to be the biggest, the smartest, the fastest, and the strongest. Instead, help us to always do our best—like you, humbly—like you, lifting others up—like you.

Thank you for forgiving us, Jesus, and thank you for loving us. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Talk to the children about your current mission project.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies needed: a parachute, the backlit heart from the Attention Grabber

The learning game involves a parachute, if available.

“Humble Parachute”

Begin with developing a rhythm by raising and lowering the parachute. Once the rhythm is set, call for groups of children to exchange places while the parachute is up and before it comes down (such as “blue eyes,” “wearing black shoes,” or “third graders”).

The second stage of the game involves telling stories of humility. Have the children raise the parachute high over their heads and then bring it down behind them. The children should quickly sit underneath the parachute on its edge. They will create a “bubble” in which they sit.

Shine the humble heart light inside the parachute. Ask the children to give examples from a day in which they practiced humility before God. Answers could include praying, smiling at siblings during breakfast, volunteering to help someone at school, stopping a fight at recess, or thanking parents for making dinner. With each answer, the humble heart light is turned on.

Bible Presentation and Application:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies: video from Nest Family Entertainment titled The Animated Stories from the Bible: Ruth

Read Philippians 2:4:

“Don’t be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others.”

Then introduce the story of Ruth:

Our movie today is about Ruth. Ruth had a humble heart and would not leave her mother-in-law. Ruth had faith that helped her look out for others and not just herself. God rewarded her and gave her a husband who was also humble.

Show the video or read the Bible event of Ruth from a children's story Bible.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

As time allows, ask kids to talk about people they know who are truly humble.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Invite children to thank God for the humble people in their lives and to pray humbly for the needs of others.

This is a good time to focus on our *prayer body language*. It can be a blessing to adopt the posture of humility by kneeling when we pray. Have the children kneel on the floor and rest their arms on their chair as they pray. Kneeling in prayer shows that we are humble before God. We want to be humble in our hearts, also, and not just humble in our praying posture.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Remember the theme of today's worship as you leave here. As you go about your daily tasks this week, remember Philippians 2:4, "Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others."

Just as Jesus lived, so he calls you to live. And when you live in that kind of spirit, God will use you to be a light of his love to others!

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- cut a heart from cardboard or poster board and cover the hole left by the heart with colored plastic wrap
- a flashlight or lamp
- a second flashlight to read the Bible passage
- Bible

Learning Game:

- parachute
- the backlit heart from the *Attention Grabber*

Bible Presentation:

- the video from Nest Family Entertainment titled *The Animated Stories from the Bible: Ruth* order from: http://www.nestfamily.com/childrens-bible-stories/store/product_detail.asp?ProductID=RUD&ProductIDF=&deptid=1&start=21&page_rec=20

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