



Date: _____

Series: Pass the Promise
Summer Year 1, Lesson 10

God Gives Grace to the Humble but Flattens the Hotshot

Primary Scripture: Matthew 23: 11-12

Key Verse: Matthew 23:12, "Whoever honors himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be honored."

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

Kids need to learn that true humility is being so secure with themselves that they don't need to brag or put on a show for attention. This type of humility begins with knowing how much God loves and honors them just for who they are and not merely for the things they can do. Yet, kids can find deep satisfaction and esteem in the things they do well. If they have the strength of humility, they can encourage others, as well. They should not cut others down so they could feel better about themselves.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus humbled himself to the point of giving his life for us on the cross. This is because he values us so much.

Jesus in us: Jesus dwells within us to give us the power of his humility that we, too, might lay down our lives for others.

Jesus through us: As we are humble before God, Jesus uses our lives to give glory to God. Through this witness, others will give glory to God, as well.

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 the worship symbols forward 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:

- small blocks or LEGOs

Build a tall, narrow tower using small blocks or LEGOs. Each time you add a piece to the tower, brag about how good you are at something or comment about how you are better at something than someone else. Keep building until the tower can no longer stand.

Explain how pride is wobbly in the kingdom of God and God will not allow a braggart to stand. God flattens the hot shot. Then say:

We are humble when we come before the Lord and tell him we need him. Let's bow down before the Lord today in worship and acknowledge that we need a savior.

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.

Supplies:

- *small blocks or LEGOs (as used in Attention Grabber)*
- *poster board or cardboard*

Using the same LEGOs or blocks from the attention grabber, build a cross that does not stand up but lies flat on a sheet of poster board or cardboard.

We are building this cross flat on the table because Jesus never praised himself. The Bible says in Philippians 2:8-11 that Jesus “*humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross. This is why God has given him an exceptional honor—the name honored above all other names—so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will kneel and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...*”

Lift up the poster board so the cross stands up and say:

Jesus flattened himself but God lifted him up. Let us come before God and confess that we have sinned and need a savior.

Lead kids in a prayer confessing times of pride and acting like we did not know or need God in our lives.

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.

Jesus was once standing at the temple, watching people bring their offerings. Some people were proud about how much they gave. However, Jesus recognized the widow who gave only a mite, or a coin of very small value. He recognized that even though it seemed like a small amount, it was all she had. He honored her. We, too, need to be humble in presenting our very best to God. Let’s do that today as we give him our offerings.



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:

- *large blocks, cardboard boxes, or stackable objects of your choice*

Divide the kids into groups of six to eight. Have a race to see which team can build the tallest tower in the amount of time allotted. When time is up, go with an adult helper and stand by the tallest tower. Have the helper brag about what a wonderful job this group did. This group is the very best and no one else is as good. Then say:

God wants to flatten this kind of attitude.

Gently knock over this team's tower.

God wants us to feel good about ourselves when we have done something well. But when does feeling good become conceited or prideful? *(We become conceited and prideful when we seek to take the credit without thanking God for the skills and abilities he has given us, or when we try to impress ourselves and/or others with our accomplishments.)*

When are times we might be tempted to brag or to look down on others?

Bible Presentation:

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.

Read Matthew 23:11-12:

"The person who is greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever honors himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be honored."

Application 1:

Supplies:

- *video: McGee and Me! A Star in the Making from Focus on the Family (Living Bibles International, 1989)—order <http://www.cfmedia.com/Listings/MAM2.shtml>*

Show the 30-minute video.

Application 2:

Option: Have groups role-play or make up skits of how people can be filled with pride or how they can be humble before God.

Role-play 1:

Kids are on the playground and one person goes from person to person bragging how he can do so much better at each activity than the others are doing. How will the others respond? How should we respond?

Role-play 2:

A group of kids are comparing their math papers after a test. One person has the very best grade on a really hard test. The other children try to compliment this person, but he rejects the compliments. Instead of saying “thank you,” the person gives reasons why it’s not very good at all. How is this not being humble?

Role-play 3:

Two kids are talking about what it takes to get to heaven. One suggests that it is by trying to be good. The other says that it is by receiving the gift of salvation that Jesus bought for us. Which person is being humble? Which is being proud? Why?

Role-play 4:

Kids are discussing who among them is the best soccer player. All are bragging except one. That person is complimenting the others. How is this person being humble? What else could this person say to give glory to God for the talents that he has in soccer?



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.

When we give glory to God for what he has done, we are being humble. Tell about a time that you gave credit to God for something that he did. An example would be when you noticed a beautiful sunset and gave him thanks for his wonderful creation.

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.

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.

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:

- small blocks or LEGOs

The Power of the Cross:

- small blocks or LEGOs (as used in *Attention Grabber*)
- poster board or cardboard

Learning Game:

- large blocks, cardboard boxes, or stackable objects of your choice

Application 1:

- video: *McGee and Me! A Star in the Breaking* from Focus on the Family (Living Bibles International, 1989)—order from <http://www.cfmedia.com/Listings/MAM2.shtml>

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