



Date: _____

Series: Lookin' for a Leader
Fall Year 3, Lesson 23

Humble Yourself and God Will Lift You Up

Primary Scripture: 1 Peter 5:6

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:6, "Be humbled by God's power so that when the right time comes he will honor you."

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

Kids, as well as adults, need good self-esteem. However, this does not mean that we are to puff ourselves up by trying to impress others. We are not to be self-absorbed in our own importance. When we focus on God, we find self-esteem in his love. We are humbled and God lifts us up.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus humbled himself to go to the cross to die for our sins.

Jesus in us: Jesus promises to be with us and fill us with his power as we have faith and trust in him. We empty ourselves of our self-pride so that we might be filled with him.

Jesus through us: Jesus works through us and our gifts and talents to bring glory to his kingdom.

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 needed: football referee's shirt (optional), whistle, hanky (yellow, if possible) or football penalty flag

Blow a whistle, pull a yellow flag out of your pants pocket or waistband, and toss it in the air. Hold your arms out to the sides, hands extended flat and down and parallel to the ground, fingers together.



If a football referee makes this sign with his arms, what does it mean? (Unsportsmanlike conduct. The kids may not know this.)

Why might the ref throw the penalty flag for unsportsmanlike conduct?

Let kids say what they think.

Players might have said a bad word, or they might have argued with the ref, or got into a fight with another player... or they may have taunted the other team after something good happened to their team. Kind of like, "Nanny nanny boo boo. We beat yoo-hoo..." only lots worse. That would be bad sportsmanship and, you might get a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.

If you watch football on TV today, you'll see bad sportsmanship all over the place. After a player makes a tackle, he might deliberately step over the player he tackled and make it hard for the other player to get back up. Demonstrate.

When players do stuff like that, they are trying to humiliate the other player or make them feel like they're less of a person. If their unsportsmanlike action is bad enough, the referee blows his whistle (blow whistle) and throws the flag (throw flag) and does this...

Hold arms out to the side again as though signaling the penalty. Keep them up.

How does God feel about that kind of play? He doesn't like it, does he? In fact, God would have us build each other up, even if we are on opposing teams. He would want us to say, "Great catch" or "Good run" to the players on the other team.

What do you notice about my arms? What does this remind you of?

As you turn your hands to face the kids, they'll probably say it reminds them of Jesus on the cross.

That's right. Jesus was up in heaven with God, in all his glory and majesty. But he didn't say to us in our sin, "Nanny nanny boo hoo, I hate you-hoo!"

Instead, in love he chose to come to earth to die for our sins. Look at what it says in Philippians 2:6-8,

"Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross."

Did Jesus stay dead? No, he rose from the dead. Where is he now? That's right. He's in heaven—worshiped by the angels and all believers who have died and gone to heaven before us.

Listen to what the Bible says in Philippians 2:9-11,

"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 to the glory of God the Father."

Let's say his name out loud, together, on the count of three, and then, bow down and worship him. Ready? 1 – 2 – 3.

Have kids bow on their knees as they say Jesus' name, then have them stand to sing and worship 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.

Supplies needed: a soccer ball

Using the soccer ball as a prop, tell the following story. Every time during the story the kids hear the word "brag," have them puff out their chests, point to themselves, and say **"I'm the best!"** Practice this response a few times before the story is told.

Pete was a great soccer player. He bragged to his teammates, "You guys would be lost without me!" Each time he made a goal, he let others know it by bragging, "You haven't seen my best shot yet!"

During practice, Pete didn't want to practice. Instead, he would brag, "I'm too good for you guys. I make all my goals. You need to work harder to keep up with me!"

Pretty soon, Pete had very few friends on the team. His teammates were so tired of hearing him brag. They went to the coach one day and asked him to make Pete stop his bragging. The coach tried to talk to Pete, but Pete just kept on bragging.

Pete started hanging out with older kids. The rest of the year he continued to brag to his teammates about his older friends and his soccer skills.

When the next season started, Pete found that his older friends had advanced to a new division. He could not join them because he was too young. He rejoined his old team.

Pete continued to skip practice in the new season and brag, "I don't need practice. I'll always be the best."

During the first game, none of Pete's teammates would pass the ball to him. He would run up and down the field and would not get the ball at all. When the team needed a final goal to clinch the victory, they passed the ball to Pete and . . . he missed it! Pete was so humiliated he had missed the ball.

Pete could no longer brag, for he had lost the game. He still did not have any friends because he had been so busy bragging that he pushed all those people out of his life. Pete was very lonely.

During the prayer, every time the word "talent" is spoken, have the kids say, "God's the best!" Doing so reminds them that God is the one who has given them talent.

Dear God, sometimes we have been like Pete. We have bragged about ourselves. You are the one who gave us our talents. We have used our talents for our own glory instead of thinking of you. We are sorry for those times. We are sorry for trying to make others feel small and unimportant. Thank you for Jesus. He used his life and his talents for you, yet he never bragged. Jesus gave his life for us to give us forgiveness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or you may want 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.

Supplies needed: a basket of symbols of what people do well. Examples of these items could be pencils for a good writer, a small ball for sports, a crayon for artists, a sheet of music for a singer, etc.

Pass the objects out to children who have talents in those areas. Ask the kids to bring the symbols of their talents forward to set in the offering plate. This is to remind them that God gave them their talents and they give them back to God in service. Have the kids also bring their offerings forward.



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: markers, balloons, chairs

“Balloon Relay”

Divide the kids into groups of eight. Give each group a balloon to blow up and tie. Have each child write his name on his group’s balloon with his opposite hand (the hand he would not normally use).

Then have a relay match. Kids line up behind a line and, one at a time, bounce their balloons in the air using their opposite hands. They travel fifteen feet around a chair and return to relay the balloon to the next person. If the balloon hits the ground, the child has to back up three steps from that point and continue.

What do we learn from this game? It’s harder for us to do things with our opposite hand. We are reminded by this to be humble. We cannot do everything perfectly. God can use us, though, with our opposite hands, and our well-coordinated hands, and our legs and eyes and ears and hearts—to serve him. That’s what we’re talking about in today’s lesson.

Bible Reading:

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 needed: The Story Keeper Series entitled “Captured,” produced by Zondervan Publishing House and Focus on the Family. Easily found on the web by “keywording” in “The Story Keeper A.D. 64.”

First, read 1 Peter 5:5-6:

“Young people, in a similar way, place yourselves under the authority of spiritual leaders. Furthermore, all of you must serve each other with humility, because God opposes the arrogant but favors the humble. Be humbled by God’s power so that when the right time comes he will honor you.”

To teach this lesson, show the video from *The Story Keeper Series* entitled “Captured.”

Summary of the video:

The video shows how Cyrus’ acrobatic talent gets the best of his pride as he receives attention for it. God shows how he can use Cyrus’ talents to serve him. Cyrus remembers that is more important to serve God than to just try to make himself look the best.

Application:

Ask questions like these as time allows to underscore God’s desire for us to be humble:

- **What was Cyrus’ special ability?**
- **Did he use that ability in the right way?**
- **What did Cyrus learn in the end?**
- **What does this movie have to do with what we have discussed today?**



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.

Have kids tell about a time they used the talents God gave them to serve him.

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.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chairs:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Have kids kneel where they are and raise their hands if they have a prayer they'd like to speak. Bring the microphone to them so their prayer can be heard. Remind them that the kneeling position is a sign of humility before the King of the universe.

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:

- football referee's shirt (optional)
- whistle
- hanky (yellow, if possible) or football penalty flag

Power of the Cross:

- soccer ball

Offering:

- a basket of symbols of what people do well. Examples of these items could be pencils for a good writer, a small ball for sports, a crayon for artists, a sheet of music for a singer, etc.

Learning Game:

- markers
- balloons
- chairs

Bible Reading:

- *The Story Keeper Series* entitled "Captured," produced by Zondervan Publishing House and Focus on the Family. Easily found on the web by "key words "The Story Keeper A.D.64."

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