

LESSON 68

The Humility of Christ

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11



BIBLE TRUTH

CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE AND OUR MOTIVATION FOR GODLY LIVING

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Philippians 2:1–11 from the Scriptures or read story 146, “The Humility of Christ,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

The Flashlight

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a flashlight
- ✓ a picture of a pig

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Consider Others

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pretzels enough for the class
- ✓ juice enough for the class
- ✓ paper cups enough for the class

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 68—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Sign the Passage

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ sign language interpreter

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Consider others better than yourself—Christians are called to humility. No one, who calls themselves a Christian can put themselves outside of the group Paul describes in Philippians 2:1. Every believer knows the love of God and the fellowship with the Spirit. Therefore, every believer is called to “count others more significant” than themselves (Philippians 2:3).

Paul roots his command in the gospel. Our good works flow out of our love for Christ and what he did for us on the cross. Paul makes that connection for the Philippians here. Our obedience comes from the encouragement of being united with Christ (Philippians 2:1). Our comfort comes from his love and our fellowship with the Spirit of God. When our obedience flows out of our love for Christ, obedience is not a hardship but a joy, and it results in our experience of joy through others.

Christ is our example in humility—Not only are we to be motivated by what Christ did for us when he died on the cross, the way of the cross provides the example of how we should live. Christ is our ultimate example of humility. Jesus Christ considered the interests of his Father as more important than his own. Jesus willingly emptied himself of his glory and took on a human nature (Philippians 2:7). In his high priestly prayer, Jesus confirmed the setting aside of his glory when he prayed: “Glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed” (John 17:5). The humility of Christ reached its climax in his death upon the cross. Jesus was mocked, spat upon, and tortured—the greatest humiliation of all known history.

God exalted Christ over all—Because of Christ’s unmatched humility and obedience in dying on the cross, God exalted him to the highest place and made the name of Jesus unmatched in greatness. One day every knee will bow and recognize the kingship of Christ (Philippians 2:9–11). On that day no one will stand in opposition before him. Even those who denied Christ in this life will know and confess to their shame that Jesus Christ is Lord. We who have been saved will know him as the author of our salvation. But those who rejected him will know him as the eternal judge who sentences them to eternal fire. The gospel opens our eyes that we might worship him freely without fear of judgment.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

The core of the gospel is found in Philippians 2:8–9. In verse 8 Jesus dies an unjust death upon the cross and then in verse 9 he is alive again because death could not hold him in the grave.

Jesus gave up the glory of heaven to come down to earth and become a servant. Philippians 2:8 tells us that he became "obedient to...death, even death on a cross." God, the creator of the universe, humbled himself and took our punishment upon himself. Jesus was fully God and fully man. Because of his deity—not being born in sin—he could remain utterly sinless and perfectly obedient. Because of his humanity, he could take our place upon the cross as a man and absorb the wrath our sin deserved.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Philippians 2:1–11 from the Scriptures or read story 146, "The Humility of Christ," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

The Flashlight

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a flashlight
- ✓ a picture of a pig

Use this illustration in teaching Philippians 2:1–11. Compare a flashlight to Christ. The glory of the flashlight is its light. The flashlight does not cease to be a flashlight when you turn off its glory. In the same way, Jesus did not cease to be God when he emptied himself to become a man.

Ask the class to consider what it would be like if we were to give up our glory. Imagine turning yourself into a pig (show the picture of a pig while you are talking). How would that be giving up your glory? (We are made in the image of God. We would need to give up our ability to speak, to reason, to worship.)

Thinking about what it would be like to become a pig is a terrible thought. We need to understand that for Jesus to give up his glory to become a man was even more terrible. The Creator became a creature.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

Consider Others

- ✓ pretzels enough for the class
- ✓ juice enough for the class
- ✓ paper cups enough for the class

Divide the class in half. Give one half two pretzels each. Give the other half two cups of juice each. Then ask the class how they can consider the interests of others with the pretzels and the juice. (The answer is obvious, those with two pretzels should give one to those with none; those with two cups of juice should also give to those with none. In the end, if everyone serves, all will be blessed.)

Have the class do the exchange so that everyone has both a pretzel and a cup of juice.

While they are enjoying their snack, ask the following questions:

- **Is sharing always that easy?**
(No, what if there is not enough to go around to satisfy everyone? What if someone in the class didn't want to share their pretzels?)

- Can you think of a time recently in your life when you considered the interests of others?
(Take any answer and draw out the class.)
- Can you think of a time when you didn't consider the interests of others? When you were selfish?
(Take any answer and draw out the class.)
- Who did God give to be our example in sharing?
(God gave us Jesus as our example; Jesus gave up his life for us upon the cross.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 68—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Who is the baby in the picture?
(The picture is of the baby Jesus.)
- What did King Jesus give up to become a little baby?
(Jesus had to give up the glory of his throne to become a helpless human child.)
- Why did the great King Jesus come to earth to be a little baby?
(Jesus came to earth as a human child so that he could grow up living a perfect life and then die on the cross to take the punishment we deserved for our sins.)
- Where is Jesus today?
(Jesus is back on his throne in all his glory again.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **20 MIN**

Sign the Passage

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ sign language interpreter

Invite a deaf interpreter to teach you the American Sign Language for Philippians 2:6–11.

If you are not able to bring in a person with these skills, work with the class to make up your own hand motions for the passage.

Then have someone act as the narrator and do a poetic presentation of these verses. After learning the signs for the passage, perform for a preschool class.

In closing, ask the children the following questions:

- **Which verses affected you the most and why?**
(Children may need some suggestions to get started.)
- **What did Jesus give up to become a man?**
(Jesus gave up his glory and majesty to become a man. Only on a few occasions (his transfiguration and resurrection) did Jesus allow his glory to be displayed.)

LESSON 68 - THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST

