



Unit 31 | Session 5

# JESUS SUFFERED FOR US

## Philippians 2

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus, the Son of God, humbled Himself by coming to earth as a man. Jesus never sinned, but He died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

### KEY PASSAGE:

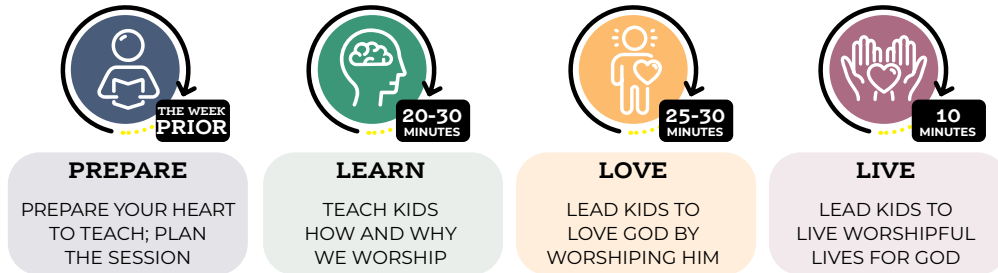
Isaiah 53:5

### EXPECTED RESPONSE:

Humility



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## PLAN the Session

1. Read the Leader Bible Study and review the session plan.
2. Check out the session-by-session training available on Ministry Grid.
3. Pray for yourself, your group, and the other leaders and kids in your ministry.

## LEADER Bible Study

The past few sessions have been focused on the opposition the early church faced and how the early Christians were able to continue spreading the gospel. Jesus' followers wanted to show the world what He is like, and they sought to display His love through their humble service. We are also called to a life of selflessness. As we meditate on the ultimate act of humility, as demonstrated by Jesus, we are able to respond with a deeply rooted desire to serve others as He did.

To prepare your heart to teach this week, read Paul's words in Philippians 2 and consider the following key points.

**Jesus' death brings forgiveness.** Jesus stepped off His throne and into this world to take our sins upon Himself. He died the death that we deserve for our rebellion, and in doing so He has reconciled us to God. We can be set free from the bondage to sin through His perfect sacrifice on our behalf.

**Jesus' resurrection brings hope.** We serve a living Savior. He has defeated death and has promised that we, too, will be raised to life. As God's image bearers, He has "put eternity in [our] hearts" (Eccl. 3:11). We look

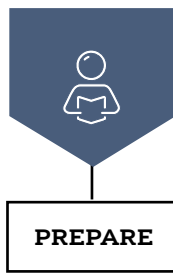
forward to the day we will see Him face to face. In the meantime, we live with hope as those whose eternity is secure.

**We represent Jesus to the world.** Jesus could have chosen to pluck us out of this world the moment we put our faith in Him, but He didn't. We remain in this world as signposts that point others to the goodness and love of Christ. Jesus has set the example for how we are to live and serve others as His representatives in this world.

Guide kids to understand that Jesus is our perfect example of humble service. He came into the world to serve us. What an incredible truth! Though Jesus is fully God, He was willing to take on human flesh in order to be the perfect sacrifice for our sin. He endured all the pain and weakness that we face, and He went before us through death, paving the way for us to spend eternal life with God.

### DOCTRINE TO KNOW

**Christ's humiliation:** God the Son left His glorious state and came in the likeness of sinful flesh. He experienced a humiliating death on a cross to rescue sinners (2 Cor. 5:21).



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### LEARN

#### Countdown

- ☐ countdown video

#### Worship through Music

- ☐ “Take My Life and Let It Be,” “Jesus Paid It All (Whiter Than Snow),” or other high-energy worship songs of your choosing

#### Introduction and Big Picture

##### Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “Jesus Suffered for Us” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

#### Group Demonstration

- ☐ large red T-shirt
- ☐ large white dress shirt and tie
- ☐ large white T-shirt



### LOVE

#### Respond in Worship

- ☐ “Follow,” “Speaking to Us,” or other slower worship songs of your choosing
- ☐ offering basket or collection box (optional)



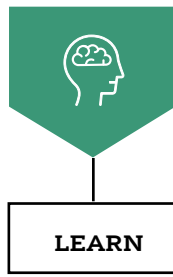
### LIVE

#### Key Passage

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “By His Wounds (Isaiah 53:5)” song

#### Additional Activity

- ☐ large craft sticks, 27 per 3 or 4 kids



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### **LEARN** through Worship

#### **1 COUNTDOWN**

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

#### **2 WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC (5–10 min.)**

Choose a few high-energy worship songs—such as “Take My Life and Let It Be” or “Jesus Paid It All (Whiter Than Snow)” —to sing with your group of kids. Lead motions enthusiastically and encourage kids to join you. Between songs, help the kids think through what it means to worship God and why we often use music to help us do so. Take time to talk the kids through any lyrics that might be challenging to understand.

#### **3 INTRODUCTION AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION (3 min.)**

**SAY** “Welcome back, friends! I’m so glad to see you and I can’t wait to jump into our Bible story together. Before we do, I have a question for you. What does it mean to be humble? **[Allow responses.]** Often when we hear the word ‘humility’ we believe it means to think badly of ourselves or think that other people are more important than we are. But as we think about this word, let’s remember something true about ourselves: we are all made in God’s image, and as image bearers we are worthy of respect. Humility doesn’t mean hating ourselves or talking poorly about ourselves. It means having a correct understanding of who we are and who God is. All people are valuable because we are created by God and we belong to Him.

Today, we’re going to hear from Paul’s letter to the Philippians where he explores this idea of humility, and how Jesus gave us a perfect example of what it looks like to be humble. Did Jesus think badly of Himself? Of course not! He knew exactly who He is — the Son of God. Yet, He was willing to set aside His glory to serve others through His life, death, and resurrection. Jesus is our perfect example of humility.

These last few weeks we have answered the question: **Why did Jesus become human?** Let’s say the answer together: **Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners.** God created humans to rule and reign over creation with Him. How did that go? From the beginning, Adam and Eve tried to rule on their own terms, and their rebellion against God brought brokenness into the world. Since that time, no human has been able to follow God perfectly. This is why Jesus came: to be the perfect human that none of us could be. He paved the way for us to come back to God and participate with God in the work He is doing in the world He has made. This is an incredible privilege! Let’s turn together to Philippians 2 and get ready to hear more.”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 4 TELL THE BIBLE STORY (10 min.)

Open your Bible to Philippians 2. Tell the Bible story using the script provided, or flesh out the “Kids Sermon Outline” in the margin to teach a more in-depth message. You may choose to play the Bible story video “Jesus Suffered for Us.” Use bold text to retell or review the story.

### JESUS SUFFERED FOR US

“**Paul, a follower of Jesus, was living as a prisoner in Rome.** The Jewish people had tried to kill him because he believed and taught that Jesus had risen from the dead.

While Paul was waiting to meet with the emperor of Rome, other believers visited Paul or sent him gifts. **The Christians in Philippi sent a gift to Paul, and he wrote them a letter to thank them. Paul told them to be humble like Jesus and to love one another, working together and taking care of one another because Jesus suffered for us.**

Paul wrote, “**Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus. Jesus is God, but He set aside His rights and honor to come to earth as a man. He came as a servant and obeyed God’s plan by dying on a cross.**

“**This is why God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name so that out of honor for Jesus, everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth will bow down to Him. And every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This brings glory to God the Father.**”

**Jesus suffered and died for us, and He rose from the dead and is alive!** Because of Jesus, we must follow and obey God. **God is at work in us, changing us to be like Jesus. Paul wrote, “Do everything without grumbling and arguing so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a world full of wickedness. In this way, you will shine like stars in the world.”**”

### KIDS SERMON OUTLINE

**Jesus’ death brings forgiveness (Phil. 2:1-4):** Jesus died on the cross as a way to offer us complete forgiveness.

**Jesus’ resurrection brings hope (Phil. 2:5-11):** Jesus did not stay dead. He rose again to life and has been exalted by God the Father.

**We represent Jesus to the world (Phil. 2:12-18):** God is working within us for His good purpose.





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 5 CHRIST CONNECTION

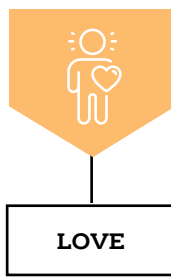
**SAY** “ Paul wrote about an incredible truth of Jesus: He is truly God yet was willing to become human to save us. **Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners.** This is the ultimate example of humility. Jesus, the Son of God, humbled Himself by coming to earth as a man. Jesus’ identity as the Son of God never changed, and He understood who He was and whose He was. But He chose to serve others by stepping down from heaven to live on earth among people. Jesus never sinned, but He died on the cross to rescue people from their sins. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive! He paved the way for us to come back to God and participate with God in the work He is doing in the world He has made. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever. ”

### 6 GROUP DEMONSTRATION (5 min.)

Put on a large red T-shirt. Ask a kid to come to the front. Put a white dress shirt and tie on him. As you work through the teaching, put a large white T-shirt over the dress shirt and tie. Then you’ll take off the large red T-shirt and put it on the volunteer over the white one.

**SAY** “ Jesus is fully God and He has always existed, even before He came to earth as a man. **Why did Jesus become human?** That’s right, **Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners.** Did Jesus stop being God when He became human? Nope! We can put this white T-shirt on our volunteer to demonstrate this idea. **[Put the white T-shirt on over the dress shirt and tie.]** He didn’t take off the fancy shirt and tie, we just can’t see it right now—the T-shirt is covering it. In a similar way, Jesus didn’t stop being God when He came to earth. He took on the form of a man, though there were many times when He demonstrated His divine power. He performed miracles, He was transfigured on the mountain, and at His baptism the Holy Spirit came on Jesus like a dove and the Father declared that Jesus was His Son.

But Jesus didn’t just come to earth to perform miracles. He came to rescue us from our sin. He took our sin on Himself and went to the cross, putting our sin to death and offering us forgiveness and life in God’s kingdom. **[Take off the red T-shirt and put it on the volunteer, over the white T-shirt.]** Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul encouraged the believers to represent Jesus by having the same attitude of humility. **[Ask a volunteer to read Philippians 2:5.]** We’re called to live humbly as Jesus did, so we can show the world what He is like. ”



## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### LOVE with Worship

#### 1 DISCUSSION (10 min.)

Consider forming smaller groups to discuss the following deep questions. Encourage kids to be honest about their feelings and help them learn to process them in healthy ways.

1. Reading Paul's exhortation to the church at Philippi may give you the desire to show humility toward others. But you may have other responses to this story. You may feel surprised that Jesus would humble Himself by becoming human to set us free. Or you may feel valued by God as you think of everything He has done for you. Help kids think about and describe other feelings they may have. Provide a safe place for kids to discuss emotions, and remind kids that their feelings are real and valid, even if they don't match what others feel.
2. Can you think of other times you have felt those feelings? Would anyone like to share their stories? Help kids talk through other situations where they have felt humbled, surprised, valued, or another emotion mentioned in the first question. Be prepared with examples from your own life.
3. Can you think of any hurtful or destructive ways we might use those feelings? We often have an incorrect view of humility by believing it to mean thinking less of ourselves. God has given us worth by creating us in His image. To be humble means to understand who we are as image bearers and to seek ways to serve others, just as Christ has served us through His death on the cross.
4. Can you think of any helpful or constructive ways we might use those feelings? When we understand that we are valuable as God's image bearers, we develop a deeper sense of our purpose in the world. Jesus invites us into a life with Him in which we seek to become more like Him. He calls us to serve with humility, understanding that all people are worthy of love and respect.

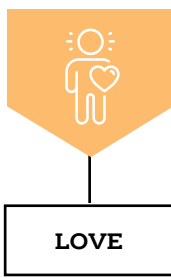
After the kids have had time to discuss, direct their attention back to the main worship leader for the group activity. If you formed smaller groups, you may choose to regather as a larger group depending on your ministry context.

#### 2 GROUP ACTIVITY: FOLLOW THE LEADER (5–10 min.)

**SAY** “Today we’ve learned that Jesus calls us to follow His example of humility. Let’s play a game to help us remember something important that we’ve learned together.”

Choose one kid to be It. He will stand at the front and call out a command for the rest of the group to follow. (For example, clap your hands five times, do three push-ups, etc.) It will also do the movement. The catch is that It can call a command but do a different motion. The kids have to do what It does even if he says something else. If a kid doesn't follow the example, that kid must say the big picture question and answer to continue playing. Play a few rounds then choose another kid to be It.

**SAY** “Great job, everyone! Was it difficult to follow all the motions correctly? [Allow responses.] You had to pay close attention in order to do the right motions, and it was important to follow the example of the leader. Jesus is our perfect example of humility. He is God yet He became a human with all the same limitations and weaknesses that you and I have. His humanity made Him the perfect sacrifice for our sin, and through His death and resurrection, God glorified Him. [Ask a volunteer to read Philippians 2:9-11.] Jesus has authority over all creation. At the name of Jesus



## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

every knee will bow and tongue confess that He is Lord. One day everyone will acknowledge that Jesus is the King of kings.

One day we will see Jesus face to face, but in the meantime, He has given us instructions on how to live now. Let's read from Paul's letter and find out more. **[Ask a volunteer to read Philippians 2:14-16.]** What did Paul tell the believers to do? **[Allow responses.]** We're to live without grumbling and complaining. Jesus calls us to serve others in humility the way He has served us. Did Jesus complain about coming to earth to live and die on our behalf? No, Jesus loved us so much that He willingly died to set us free from sin. We represent Jesus to the watching world when we follow His example of humility. What might this look like in your life? **[Allow responses.]** Humility may mean letting your sibling have the first turn with a toy you wanted to play with, or helping your family with chores without complaining. You may show humility by encouraging a friend who did poorly on a test rather than bragging about your own good grade. Humility means caring about other people and helping them however you can! ”

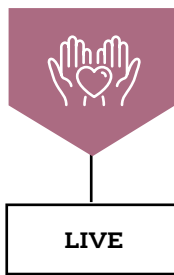
### 3 RESPOND IN WORSHIP (3 min.)

Choose slower worship songs—such as “Follow” or “Speaking to Us”—that will help your kids reflect on the concepts they have learned about during this session. Encourage kids to respond however they feel God leading them, whether in prayer, quiet thought, or song.

**SAY** ” Jesus has given us our church community as a gift. He draws us together so we can encourage one another and reflect Him to each other. Christ has given us an example of humility so we can humbly serve others as a way of showing our love for God. Jesus has offered us true life in God's kingdom, and we live out that truth every day when we imitate Him. Will we do this perfectly? No, but He is faithful to help us live in a way that honors Him. Let's spend some time now reflecting on His goodness to us so we can reflect His love to others. ”

As you continue playing music, allow the kids a few minutes to pass an offering basket, bring offerings to a collections box, or collect offerings in another way.





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** in Worship

#### **1 KEY PASSAGE** (5 min.)

**SAY** “ Jesus didn’t come to earth to be served, but to serve us by giving His life to take the punishment we deserve for our rebellion against God. He was beaten and hurt and then nailed to a cross. He took all of our sin upon Himself when He was crucified. And even though we still struggle with the desire to sin, we can walk in the new life God gives us. Praise God for what He has done for us! ”

Read Isaiah 53:5 and encourage the kids to read along. Display the key passage poster for kids to read. You may also sing the key passage song, “By His Wounds (Isaiah 53:5).”

#### **2 APPLICATION** (2 min.)

Spend some time following up with the kids to see if they were able to complete the application challenges from the previous session. (Write down questions you have about the Bible and pray for wisdom; help a friend understand something about the Bible that you have learned.) Encourage each kid for his or her efforts, and remind kids to keep seeking ways to worship God each day.

**SAY** “ When we give our lives to Jesus, He doesn’t pluck us out of the world. Instead, He calls us to show the world what He is like by the way we live out our faith. Our application challenges help us do this on a daily basis as we learn to follow Jesus. Here are some actions to try this week. ”

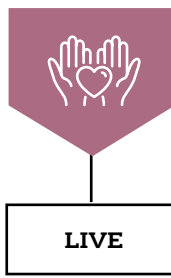
1. Jesus gave us the perfect example of humility by serving us, even to the point of death on the cross. Brainstorm some ways you can serve others this week. Think of a way to serve your family, your school, your church, and your community. Write down your ideas and try to do something each day that reflects the humility of Christ to the people around you.
2. Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, calling them to encourage one another and serve each other. Think of someone who has served or encouraged you recently. Write them a note or tell them in person how much their service and encouragement means to you.

**SAY** “ Can you do those things to worship God this week? [Allow responses.] Awesome! I can’t wait to hear how it goes! ”

#### **3 PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** (2 min.)

**SAY** “ Father, we are so thankful for Your Word and how we can know You better by reading it. We are amazed at the humility of Christ and the lengths He went to bring us back into Your presence. We want to live in a way that shows others what You are like. Please help us this week to obey You and serve others. Amen. ”

Make any announcements from your kids’ ministry before dismissing. If there’s significant time between dismissal and pickup, consider using the additional activity to keep the kids engaged. You may also substitute the additional activity for the group activity.



## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

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### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

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#### KEY PASSAGE MIX UP

Form small groups of three or four kids. Give each group a set of craft sticks and instruct them to write one word of the key passage on each stick. Once all the groups are done, challenge them to mix up the sticks and race to put them back in order.

**SAY** “ We have talked about how Jesus is our perfect example of humility. This passage shows how Jesus was willing to suffer and even die to offer forgiveness for our sin. This is the ultimate demonstration of humility and love. We can respond to Jesus’ sacrifice by trusting in Him and receiving the gift He offers to us. Our sin has broken our relationship with God, and Jesus’ death and resurrection have made a way for us to be reconciled—or brought back—to God. Let’s respond to Him with faith and obedience. Jesus went first, and now we can follow His example by loving others and serving them. ”