

An Example In Humility

Philippians 2:1-16

MEMORY VERSE

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Enough small prizes (pencils, stickers, etc.) for each child in your class. Try to make sure that it is something your class will think is pretty cool to have.

A copy of the curriculum template (provided with your lesson) for each student in your class, pencils or markers

1" segments of various colored pipe cleaners (2 segments per child), large, brightly colored beads (2 per child), cardboard toilet paper rings cut into 1/2" segments (1 segment per child), tissue paper or wrapping paper pre-cut into 8"x 8" squares (1 per child), and a 10" piece of ribbon (1 per child).

ATTENTION GETTER!

Esteeming Others

For this activity you will need enough small prizes (pencils, stickers, etc.) for each child in your class. Try to make sure that it is something your class will think is pretty cool to have.

Have your children sit in rows or certain areas of the classroom. Tell your class that you have a special prize for the children. Purposely give a prize to every child in a row except for the last one. If they possibly ask why you forgot them simply explain that you didn't forget them.

Next, tell each person in the row to pass their prize to the child behind them (or next to them depending on your room lay out). This will leave the first person in the line with nothing and the last person will receive a prize. Ask the first person who now doesn't have a prize how it felt to have to give up their prize to someone else. Ask the class if it is important for us to give up what we have in order to make sure that someone else has what they need? Today we are going to be talking about esteeming others as better than ourselves and look at the perfect example of that in Jesus. Make sure that you give a prize to each of the children who ended up without a prize.

LESSON TIME!

Jesus taught many things during His life on earth and every one of the lessons He taught with His words, He lived them out by His actions. Perhaps his greatest example was in the area of humility. His life spoke volumes of what humility should look like. We are going to look closer at humility and Jesus' example in our lesson today. **We need to be humble like Jesus.**

Paul understood this very important character trait of Jesus and how it affected every aspect of Jesus' ministry. Paul also had learned that in order for him to follow and obey God he would have to become humble just like Jesus. In our verses today we find Paul exhorting (urging or warning earnestly) the Philippians against the sin of pride, yet in all of this Paul exhorted with a spirit of love. Paul needed to be humble to teach humility and this is the lesson we are to learn and live out in our lives. **We need to be humble like Jesus.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

It looks like Paul is asking four questions in this first verse: if there is any consolation, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship, if any affection and mercy. In other words, since these things are in place it is going to help us get along with one another. Humility is a very important part of that. So, since we are in Christ Jesus we have consolation (strength and encouragement), comfort in His love for us, true fellowship coming from the presence of the Holy Spirit and affection and mercy towards each and every person.

But it does not end there. Since these are the characteristics of Jesus living in our lives it will produce like-mindedness (same attitude towards the things of God), same love (same desire to love one another as Christ loves), one accord (an attitude of humility and harmony/peace with one another), and of one mind (same thoughts towards God and others). **We need to be humble like Jesus.**

Paul is encouraging these Christians to get along with one another and be unified because of what Jesus has done in their lives. So often conflicts and problems with other people happen because of the sin of pride. We all want to have our own way and we do not want to give in. But when we are humble like Jesus, we are able to get

along with others. We are not seeking what we want, but looking after what is best for the other person. This is how Jesus wants us to be. **We need to be humble like Jesus.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

In verse three we are told that we should never do anything out of selfish ambition or conceit. Whenever we do anything in life it is important for us to stop and think about what is going on inside of our heart. Why are we doing the things we are doing? Sometimes we can be motivated by selfish ambition. In other words, I might do something in order to promote myself, or to make myself look good to other people. I might do something so that others will think I am special and maybe they will give me special jobs or responsibilities so I can be noticed.

Do you see the problem with that kind of thinking? The small word “I” is at the center of it. When we do things through selfish ambition we are doing nothing but promoting ourselves. Jesus isn’t lifted up or glorified in that. Conceit means that I see myself as being higher than others. I think that I am better. We need to be careful not to esteem ourselves better than others

Rather, we need to do things in lowliness of mind. We should think of ourselves in the proper view. We need to see ourselves as servants, not as someone better than someone else. Then we are told that we need to esteem others as better than ourselves. Esteem means to “lift up”. So whenever I am around others I need to “lift them up” as being better than me. This is what humility is supposed to look like.

Then in verse four Paul says that we need to not only look after our own interests, but be concerned about the interests of others. It is only natural for us to look after our own interests, or the things that concern us. But it is also very easy for us to only be concerned about the things we are interested in and forget about everyone else. God wants us to not only take care of our own things, but be concerned about other people and what is important to them. **We need to be humble like Jesus.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Paul then gives an example of what humility is supposed to look like. How are we to lift up others as better than ourselves? How are we to consider the interest of others? We have to look no further than Jesus. Paul says that the same mind that was in Jesus is to be in us as His followers. In other words, in the same way that Jesus lived, we need to live as well.

Jesus is very humble. While he ministered here on this earth, He did it in such a way that always showed a heart of humility. Jesus did put others before himself. Jesus was never full of selfish ambition or conceit. Jesus was always concerned about the needs and interests of others. But even apart from His every day life being a great example to us of doing these things, there is something else very great that Jesus has done to be an example to us.

We are told that Jesus, who was in the form of God. In other words, Jesus is God who has come in human flesh (John 1:1-3; 14). Jesus laid aside the glory of heaven to come to this world. Now if anyone had the right to think more highly of themselves than others it certainly would be Jesus. Certainly God could think of Himself as more important than others. Why would He have to be concerned about other people?

Here is the example, the great and mighty God, comes in human flesh. We are told that He made Himself of no reputation. Jesus did not go around bragging on Himself, telling everyone about how cool He is. He did not have to go around promoting Himself. Jesus took on the form of a bondservant, a slave. And He came in the likeness of men. God became one of us, walking in our shoes so to speak.

Jesus understands each one of us because although He is God, He became one of us. He has walked in our shoes. And it shows His great humility because He was willing to lay aside the glory of heaven for the suffering He would have to endure in this world. He did all of this so that each one of us could have a relationship with God.

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

And living in this world as a man, Jesus lived a life of humility. He was a perfect example of humility. Jesus was perfect in every way; He never sinned. And as our example, humility was always a characteristic of His life. As we read about His life in the gospels, every time He walked into a room He always looked for the person who had the greatest need. Then He served them. He healed people, fed people, raised people from the dead. He always put the needs of others before His own needs.

Also, in humility, Jesus was obedient. He was obedient to His father, God. Did you know that obedience is a sign of humility? If I am being humble and being a servant to others, then I am going to obey those who are in authority. An example is obeying our parents. The times we disobey is usually when we think we are smarter, or when we are lifted up in pride. If I am being humble in my relationship with my parents, then I am going to obey them.

Jesus obeyed His Father in everything, even when obedience meant laying down His life on the cross. Jesus showed true humility when He placed our need for salvation above His own life. We should be humble in the same way. Do we put the needs of others before our own? **We need to be humble like Jesus.**

Find the Hidden Word Game

For this activity you will need a copy of the curriculum template for each student in your class. You will also need pencils or markers. Have the children color in the box of every word found in today's memory verse. After they have colored in all of the "memory verse" boxes then tell them to turn their papers to a landscape view to reveal a special word.

Below is an example of the special word that should be revealed.

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Have you ever noticed that God likes to do things in ways we might consider upside down. An earthly king would want to exalt himself in order to have people serve him. But Jesus did it in the opposite way. He served others and because of His humility, God has exalted Him above every other name. That is the way it works in God's kingdom. If we want to be the first, we don't put ourselves there. We need to be the servant of others in order to be the greatest in God's kingdom.

One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. What an amazing day that will be. Every man, woman and child who ever lived in this world will one day acknowledge that Jesus truly is Lord. Unfortunately it will be too late for those who did not receive Him here. Because of people's pride they refuse to bow their knees to Jesus.

Sometimes people will say, “I can believe in Mohammed, or Buddha, they all lead to heaven.” But that isn’t true. Mohammed, Buddha or any other religious leader never laid down their lives in humility. God never laid the sins of mankind on them. They do not have the ability to offer forgiveness of sin. God has made it very easy for us to be forgiven and have a relationship with Him. Simple belief in Jesus and accepting the salvation that He provided. We do not have to do a thing to be saved, except believe. Jesus did it all for us.

There is no need for anyone to spend eternity apart from Jesus. We can bow our knees today and confess with our tongues right now that Jesus is Lord. Have you done that yet? You can be saved today. **We need to be humble like Jesus.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Here Paul is saying that since these things we learned about Jesus are true we need to examine our own lives and “work out” our own salvation with fear and trembling. Each one of us should look into our own hearts to see whether or not we are truly saved. Do we think we are saved because our mom or dad is saved? Do we think we are saved because we come to church every Sunday? Do we know beyond any doubt we are saved because we have placed our trust in Jesus Christ?

When we are saved we will begin to see God working in our lives. Fruit will begin to come forth out of our lives. God works in His people giving us the desire to do what He wants us to do. He will help us to be humble like Jesus because His Holy Spirit lives inside of our hearts. **We need to be humble like Jesus.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:14-16

Do all things without complaining and disputing,

that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Here is another area of life where humility is important. It is so easy to complain about things. Maybe things do not go the way we want them to, or maybe someone gets us upset. Often we begin to complain about our situation. Or we begin to get into a conflict with another person. If we are living in humility and having the same “mind as Jesus” then we should not be complaining or arguing with others. Rather, we should be putting others first and seeing how we can help others, instead of tearing them down. **We need to be humble like Jesus.**

God wants us to be blameless and harmless. No one should be able to point a finger at us as Christians and accuse us of doing the same things that the world does. We need to be a different people. We live in a very wicked world and in the midst of all of the darkness our lives should stand out as a light. When we live a life of humility we will definitely look different than the world.

We also need to hold fast to the Word of God. We can become more like Jesus when we read about Him and study His life in the Bible. The Bible is a living book and has the power to change us and help us to be more and more like Jesus every day. Let’s have the same mind that Jesus has. Let’s live our lives as humble servants, not as people who are filled with pride and demand our own way. **We need to be humble like Jesus.**

A Gift for Someone Else

This craft will remind us that Jesus has come to give us the gift of salvation. And we should share that gift with others. We are going to make a craft ring for ourselves and then make another and wrap it in order to give to a friend and give us an opportunity to tell them about Jesus’ gift to us.

You will need 1" segments of various colored pipe cleaners (2 segments per child). Large, brightly colored beads (2 per child). Cardboard toilet paper tubes cut into 1/2" segments (1 segment per child). Tissue paper or wrapping paper pre-cut into 8"x 8" squares (1 per child), and a 10" piece of ribbon (1 per child).

Have the children place one bead onto each of their pipe cleaner segments. Next have them wrap the pipe cleaner around a finger of their choice and twist the ends for the ring to stay on their finger. Have them finish the second ring which will be a gift to another child. When finished with the ring have the children take an 8"x 8" square of tissue or wrapping paper. Place the 1/2" segment from the toilet paper roll in the center of the tissue square. Place the ring inside of the toilet paper roll segment. Gather the tissue or wrapping paper and then tie the ends together at the top using the piece of ribbon. Instruct the children to give this gift to another child and explain how that Jesus has come to give us the greatest gift of all, salvation.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to live their lives in humility, just as Jesus did. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Template – Find the Hidden Word Game

Let	frog	nothing	airplane	be
done	boat	through	lion	selfish
ambition	or	conceit	but	in
spider	car	game	tuna	hamburger
pickle	milkshake	motorcycle	cookie	lowliness
of	mind	let	each	esteem
skateboard	green	baseball	fish	soccer
school	others	bicycle	better	summer
than	football	himself	swimming	Philippians
2:3	Let	nothing	be	done
piano	cousin	Legos	swing set	leopard
through	selfish	ambition	or	conceit
but	yellow	family	homework	roller skates
fun	in	taco	guitar	grapes
tomato	playground	lowliness	salad	Bob
basketball	of	Sunday School	roller coaster	beach
mind	violin	swordfish	cheetah	blue
let	each	esteem	others	better
purple	Larry	ocean	mom	sister
than	himself	Philippians	2:3	Let
tiger	jellyfish	orange	brother	nothing
be	done	through	selfish	ambition
cucumber	dad	sand	drum	pool
or	conceit	but	in	lowliness
aunt	jet ski	of	uncle	suntan
mind	let	each	esteem	others