

MISSION: POSSIBLE

Character Development

Lesson 5: Humility: Part One

Lesson Keys

- Humility Indicators
- Definition
- Jesus, our example
- Scriptural Challenge
- Lesson in Action

Preparation

The humility indicator is a very important part of the lesson. Be sure to rehearse this in your head and bath it in prayer before doing it. Pray that the kids would truly see their level of humility. Be prepared to bring some energy to the story of Jesus. Last of all, pray that the foot washing would be a meaningful example to your kids.

Supplies

- Water Bins with soap
- Towels
- Soft Drinks
- Cups

Scripture Guide

Phil. 2:3b
John 13:1-17
Matt. 23:11-12
Matt. 15:4
1 Peter 5:6

Teaching Coach

Rehearse the indicators several times in your head and bathe them in prayer. The idea is that the *continued...*

Introduction

Humility Indicator 1:

As the kids come in, split them into groups of two. Feel free to mix boys with girls, but be sure that you as the teacher choose the groups. Once the groups are divided, send one person from each group to the back where they will take two cups of soda, one for themselves and one for their partner. One cup will have more soda in it than the other one. Have them sit down, but do not let them drink yet. Once everyone is seated, begin the test. Explain that no one should feel guilty or upset and no one should single anyone out.

Ask the kids who ended up getting the cup with the most soda in it. Was it the kid who delivered the soda or the kid who stayed behind? Who kept the cup with more soda? Who kept the cup with less soda? Did anyone ask the other kid which one they wanted?

This test may reveal your level of humility

Humility Indicator 2:

Have the kids face their partner and look them in the eye. Ask the kids to not give an answer yet, but just to think about what they think their answer would be.

Question: Is the person you are looking better than you or are you better than them?

Don't make the question complex (like, how would they be better). In a general way, who is better? Have the kids face the front. Give them a slip of paper and let them write down their answer and turn it in. They need to write just two things, "I am," or "they are." Make sure that they do not put their names on their paper. Separate the "I am" s from the "they are" s and announce the totals.

Today the subject is humility.

Key Scripture: Philippians 2:3b ...But in humility consider others better than yourselves.

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kids would truly see if they are humble or not. Be sure to be sensitive to the kids and encourage them that now that they know, they can work to turn it around.

Explain that there are really two sides to humility and that we will only be exploring one side of the coin in this lesson.

Do your best to portray that what Jesus did was really a disgusting job. Explain the extreme paradox of how Jesus, the most beautiful, powerful and wonderful being in the universe had humbled himself to washing the grime off someone's feet. Relate this to their level that if Jesus, as awesome as he is, could do this, shouldn't we be willing to serve others by humbling others and loving others.

Humility is a virtue that is often the hardest character trait to develop. It feels very good to be complimented and encouraged. It also feels very good to be taken care of by other people. Not that either of these things is bad, but true humility often requires deflecting praise to who it is due and serving someone else rather than being served.

Definition

- Learning to love others more than us.
- Recognizing that God and others are actually responsible for the achievements in our lives

Jesus the Servant

Story from John 13:1-17

Jesus and his disciples were together in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Passover was a Jewish holiday for remembering the time when God freed the Jews from slavery in Egypt. As the Passover supper was being served to Jesus and his disciples, Jesus got up from the table. He poured water into a basin and began washing the disciple's feet and drying them with a towel. In Bible times, roads were dusty or muddy. One of the ways guests were made comfortable was for a servant to wash their feet.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to Him. "Are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus looked at Peter and told him, "You do not understand this now, Peter. You will understand later." Peter could not understand why Jesus would want to wash feet when; usually the lowest servant was given that job. "You shall never wash my feet!" Peter declared.

Jesus answered, "If you do not let me wash your feet, you cannot be my disciple." Peter heard what Jesus said and replied: "Then don't just wash my feet! Wash my hands and head also!" Jesus washed Peter's feet.

Jesus was trying to teach his followers that to be a great person, you must be as humble as a servant is and love others more than yourself. The disciples realized that if God's Son could serve them, then they were not too great to serve other people.

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The principle of servanthood and greatness is a complex paradox. To be great, we have to become nothing. Once we change our mindset of just wanting to be great and begin to focus on serving others, God will elevate us.

Continue to teach even as you wash their feet. Serve them by elevating them and encouraging them. Be sure not to pressure any kids to do this who do not want to have their feet washed.

Humility and Serving

It is a natural tendency for people to desire to be great. Often times people try to be great by exalting them and having others do things for them. However, the Bible's way of becoming great is to serve and do things for others.

Matt 23:11-12

For whoever exalts him will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Matt 18:4

4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

1 Peter 5:6

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Jesus was great simply because he was God. However, he showed the power of his greatness by being the servant of man. Not only did he wash dirty feet, but he died a miserable death on a cross for a world that didn't even appreciate him.

If Christ, who is the greatest of all, can serve in the lowest positions, certainly we as Christians can serve our fellow brothers as well as unbelievers.

Lesson in Action

Take the remainder of the class and wash the children's feet.