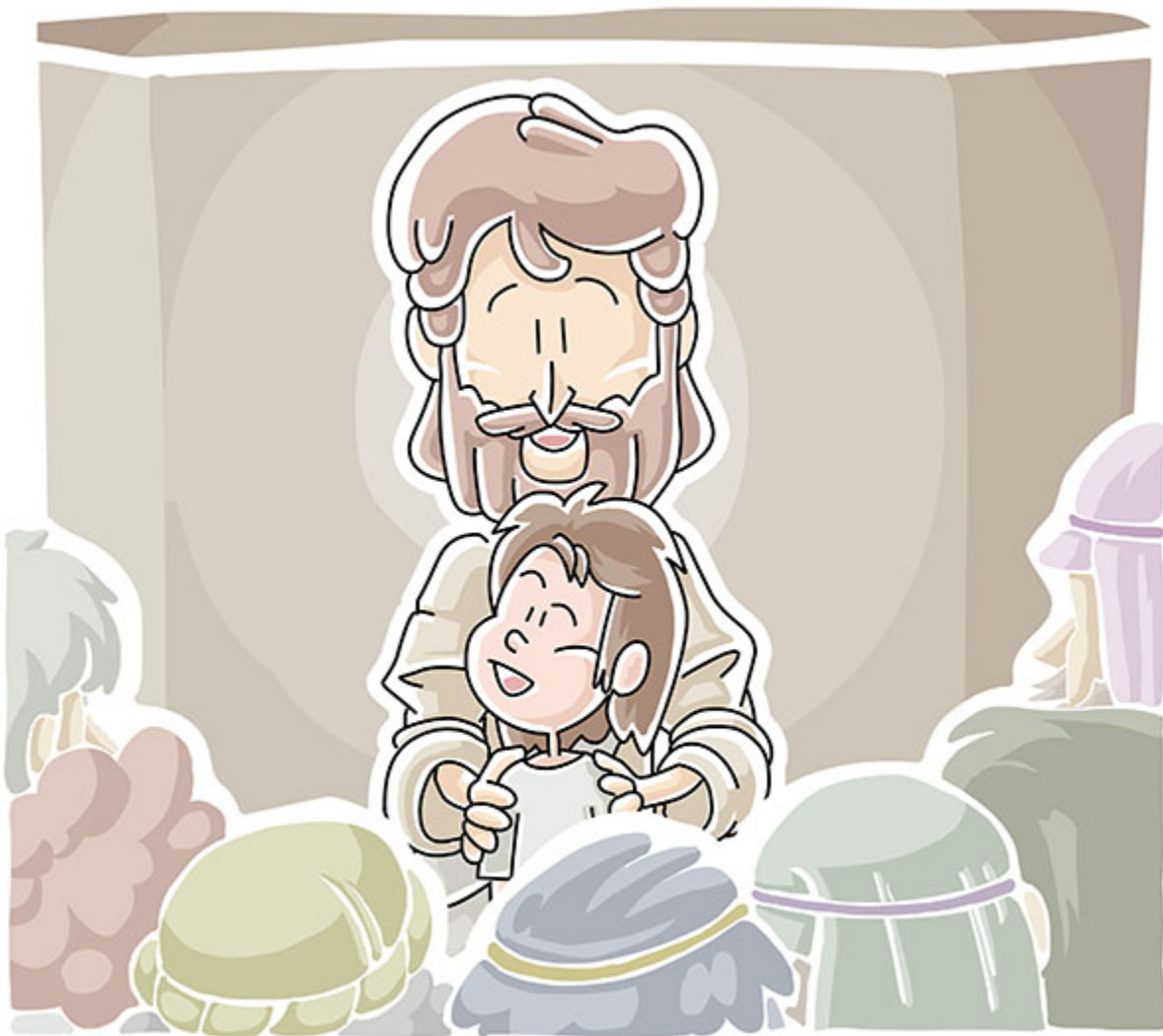


Act Like a Servant!

Imitating the Humility of Jesus

Philippians 2: 1-11 NIV

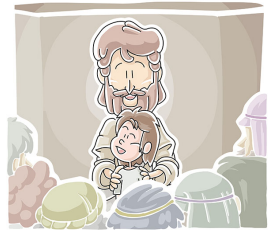
Bible Lesson & Activities for Children



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE

Act Like a Servant

The Humility of Jesus



What does it mean for us that Jesus became a human? Our Savior left His throne and came to Earth to live as a human. He humbled himself and came to serve others, and ultimately to die a criminal's death for our redemption. This lesson focuses on the tasks Christ took on when He became human, and how we should strive to follow after Him by living as He did, with humility and selfless service. We can encourage children to put others first and live in a way that imitates Jesus.

Philippians 2 reminds us of the sacrifices Jesus made for our sake. He emptied Himself and came to Earth as a human, in order for us to be free from sin and death. We can rejoice knowing that the work He has done covers our wrongs and makes us new. We should also praise the name of Jesus, recognizing the amazing things He still does in our lives, and living in a way that honors and worships Him.

Passage: Philippians 2:1-11

Target Audience: Kindergarten-6th grade

Materials Needed:

More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#).
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#).
- Watch the [video Bible story "Humility"](#) from Crossroads Kids Club
- Watch the [video "Out on a Limb - Humble"](#) from Saddleback Kids
- For more free Bible illustrations, visit [Christian Clip Arts](#) and [Ministry-To-Children's Coloring Pages](#)

Object Lesson (5 minutes)

Greet children, and wear some sort of costume or uniform, affecting a role or job that could be taken on...this script follows the acting theme, but you could just as easily choose to do the same sort of message with a career role instead.

Hello, children of God!

You might notice I'm a little dressed up here. I'm just preparing for my acting career! I am going to take on a role on the stage...have you ever seen a play or a movie? Have you ever been in a play? Now usually, when you're hoping to take part in a performance, you want a good part, right? If desired, suit up in a fun costume to demonstrate the roles as you describe them. For instance, would you rather be the lead role, looking awesome and rescuing people as a hero? Or....would you rather be the lowly sidekick or animal? Unless you're painfully shy, chances are you'd prefer a good part. Not many people would choose the humble lower role if given the option. And when you're preparing for the role, what do you need to do? You memorize lines, learn where to stand and how to act, and you sort of "become" that character for the time you're on stage.

Did you know that Jesus took on a role when He came to Earth? Well, He wasn't just acting, though. He truly became a human in every way. He was still God, too, though, which is somewhat confusing because that's the way the Trinity is...but anyway, Jesus set aside His power and privileges as God so that He could become a man. He took the humble, lowly role. He took on the part of a regular person, needing to eat and sleep and go to the bathroom. Not only did He become completely human, He also came to serve, and not to be served. Jesus didn't live in a palace or have a lot of bodyguards or fancy robes. He set an example in humility, helping and healing people and even washing the feet of His

friends! Ultimately, He died on the cross, suffering a shameful, painful, criminal's death. This, of course, was to pay the price for our sins and grant us eternity in Heaven someday! Jesus did that for us, and He wants us to act like Him. Of course, we know we are not Jesus. We will never be perfect like He was, because we are sinful. But we can imitate Him and take on that "role" somewhat when we follow His example of humility. This means putting other people before ourselves. It means not always fighting for the first spot in line or the best of things that we might think we "deserve." It means doing things for other people, loving and serving them instead of expecting others to do things for us. We can try to act like Jesus when we get to know Him better through His word and prayer.

We can also give thanks and praise to God for sending Jesus to live on Earth as a human. We can rejoice in the work He did for us on the cross, and take hope in the fact that His presence is with us always. His name is above every other name. He emptied Himself and sacrificed, and we can be grateful for that every day!

Why don't we pray now and thank God for Jesus?

Prayer: (Invite the children to repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus

To come to Earth as a human.

Help us to be humble like He was

And put others before ourselves.

Thank you for forgiveness and grace.

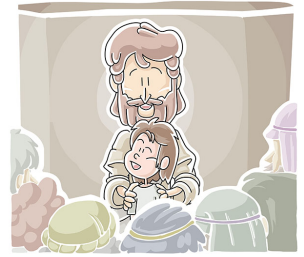
Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Game & Activities Suggestions

(10 minutes)



This passage focuses on examining the model that Jesus set as a humble servant. We see how he set aside privilege and came to earth to live and die for us. Because of this, we are called to follow his example and live humbly and obediently. Open with some games or discussions to spark thought and introduce themes. Here are some ideas:

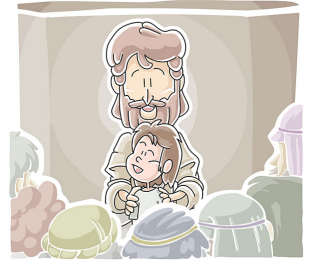
- Mime it! Have students partner up and mime one another. Whatever one partner does, the other has to reflect exactly, as an image in a mirror. Do this as a simple warm-up or make it more competitive by evaluating teams against each other.
- Imitation games: play variations on charades. Play the traditional version (with differing themes and categories), or play “sound charades”, imitating the sound of an animal or thing, or even the way another person would speak.
- Attitude adjustments: provide pictures of kids displaying various types of attitudes or facial expressions. Have students identify the attitude, and make up a story of why they are feeling that way. Invite them to brainstorm ways that they could change and improve on attitudes.
- Who was Jesus? Start the discussion by brainstorming attributes and attitudes of Jesus Christ, contemplating who He was and how He lived. Have students list everything they can think of.

- Lifestyles of the...compare and contrast the way people live who have very little and the lifestyles of those who are quite wealthy. Discuss the blessings of living by humble means. To make this discussion an interactive game, designate areas of the room to represent the “haves” and “have-nots”. Describe an example of a lifestyle and have students run to the part of the room that stands for it. Or have students team up and allow the “humble” to chase the “haughty”, who will join team humble if tagged.
- Write a letter! Today’s passage features an epistle, which was originally a letter written by Paul. Have students write an encouraging letter to someone special in their lives.

Tell students that today’s passage focuses on Jesus and how and why He came to Earth. It gives us joy for the hope that He provides, and also reminds us that we are called to live humbly and serve others, just as Christ did!

Main Bible Teaching

(15 minutes)



This passage is not long, but has some very important themes within the verses. Have students take turns reading the verses, or read them aloud to younger children, and pause to explain and consider what the components mean.

Philippians 2:1-2 NIV *Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.*

Start off by explaining to students that these verses come from a part of the Bible we call an “epistle.” That means it was originally a letter, in this case written by Paul to the people in a church he helped in a place called Philippi (hence the name “Philippians.”). The Philippians had helped Paul a great deal and he was thankful for them. He also wanted to encourage them to continue living in ways that honored God and helped one another. This passage focuses on how the Philippians should consider the amazing sacrifice that Jesus made when He came to Earth as a humble human.

Ask: Have you ever written a letter to someone to give them encouragement or just say hello? Who are people that bring joy to your life?

Philippians 2:3-4 NIV *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

Discuss what these things mean. What is conceit, and what is humility? Here Paul encourages the people to think of others as more important than themselves. Sometimes we want to put our own interests first, but it's important to remember that other people have feelings that matter. Jesus came to love and serve us. We know that it feels good to have people care about us, so we should behave in ways that demonstrate care and love for others.

Ask: What are some ways that you could show humility or put someone else before yourself?

Philippians 2:5-8 NIV *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

This is really a remarkable set of verses. Of course, we know that we cannot be Jesus, but this admonishes us to have the same mindset that He did. Jesus did not “grasp” onto His God nature, but instead became a person. We call this the “incarnation” (have younger students repeat the big word). It means that God, creator and master of the universe, became a tiny baby. He was completely human. He laughed, cried, ate, drank, slept, and even went to the bathroom! He didn't live a big fancy lifestyle, but served others and lived in humility. At the end of His life, He gave Himself up to be killed as a criminal, dying a painful and utterly humiliating death. And He did that all for us, so that we could live and have our sins washed away! But we know that isn't the end of the story...Jesus did not stay dead, but rose again, and lives forever, as can we!

Philippians 2:9-11 NIV *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Jesus brought Himself low, to be lifted high. As we marvel at the fact that He came to Earth for us, we should rejoice in Him and exalt in His name and the work He did and does. We can praise Him every day and be thankful for what He did. And we can strive to live this way also! We can put others first and live to love and serve God and His people. We can praise and worship the Lord for the wonderful things He has done. And we can live in the presence of Him always.

Ask: How can we exalt the name of Jesus and tell others of the great things He has done?

Humility is not only a good idea, but an attitude that Jesus demonstrated. We should think about how we approach tasks in our daily lives. Are we working to help people and show love to God? Or are we motivated by selfish desires? It's easy to be selfish. But we can ask Jesus for help to have a humble attitude.

Ask: Why is it important to remember what Jesus did for us? How can we act more like Him?

Close with prayer, thanking God for Jesus and asking Him to help us live in humble service to others.

Craft Activities (15 minutes)

Jesus emptied Himself of privileges and came to Earth to serve, rather than being served. He demonstrated how to live humbly, thinking less of ourselves and honoring God first and foremost. These crafts celebrate what it means to be humble and how we can serve others with humility. An “Empty Yourself Box” uses an empty container to be filled with ideas about humility. A “Humble Pie Plate” provides a creative decorating outlet to consider how to act humbly.

Craft one: "Empty Yourself Box"

You will need:

- Empty box or container
- Tape or glue
- Scissors
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Extra decorations (stickers, etc.)
- Markers or crayons

Procedure:

1. Decorate the outside of an empty box or container, wrapping it with paper and adding extra decorations as necessary.
2. Cut several pieces of cardstock or construction paper, and write ways to act humbly or be a servant.
3. Add verses or captions to the outside of the box.
4. Place the papers inside so that they can be removed and discussed at times to remember the importance of living as servants.



Craft Two: "Humble Pie Plate"

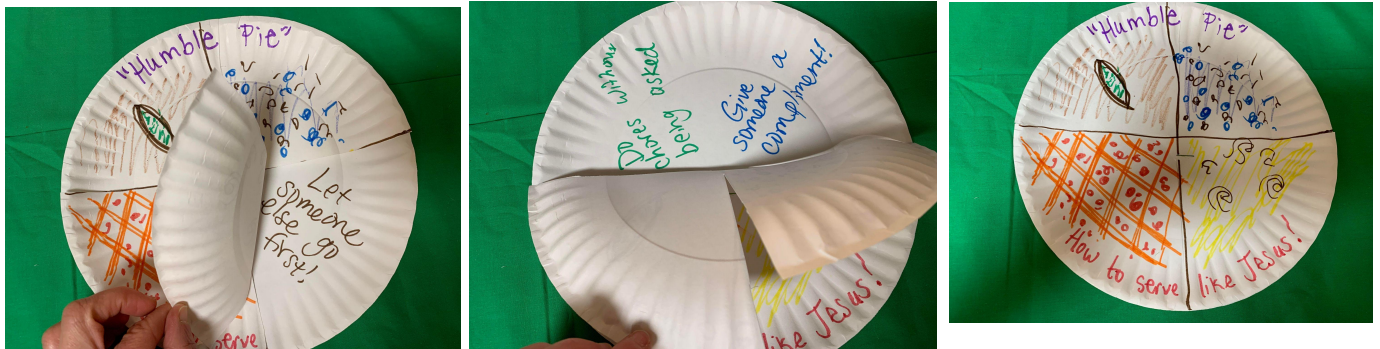
You will need:

- Paper plates (2)
- Staple or brad fastener
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Tape or glue



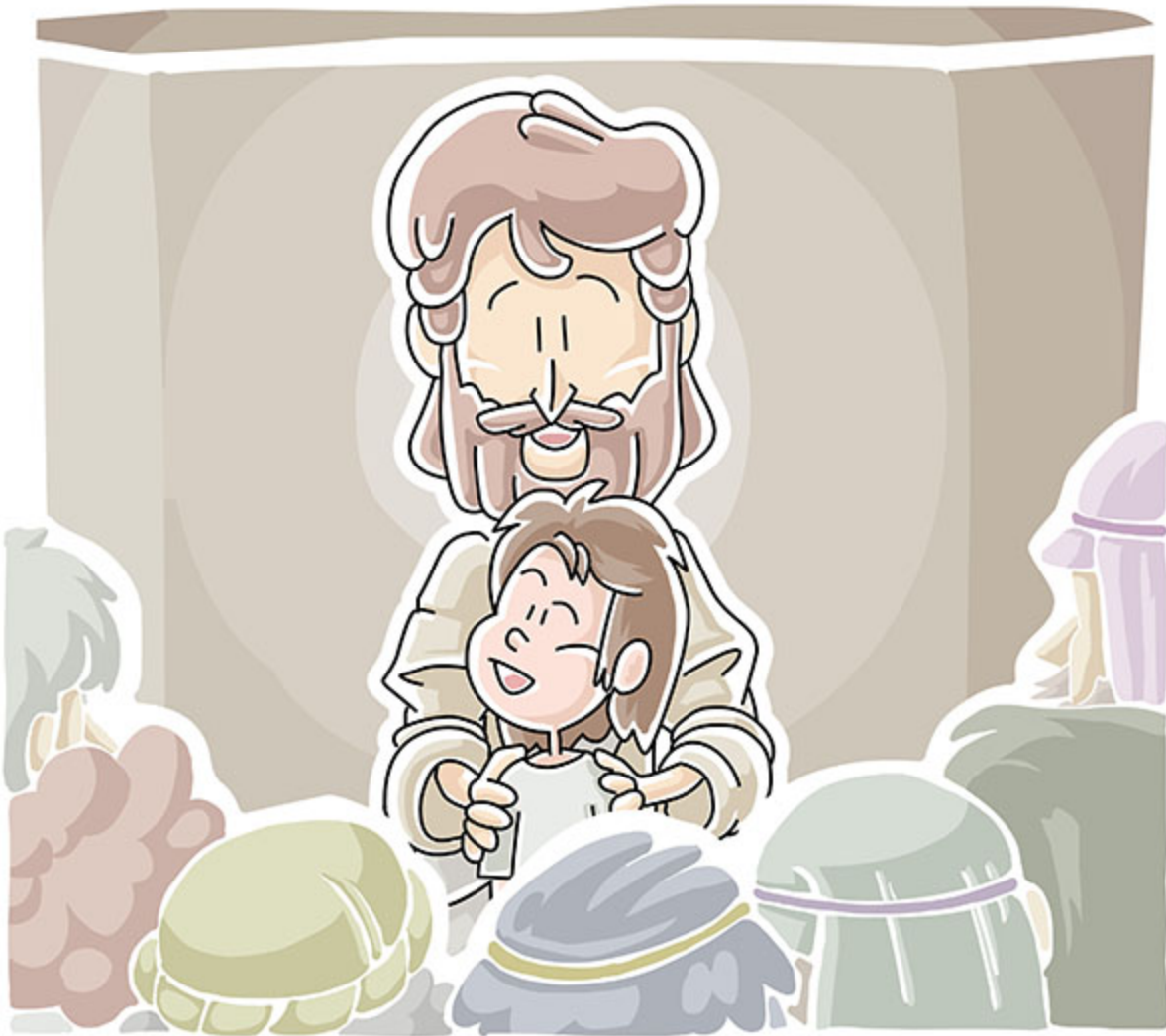
Procedure:

1. Decorate one paper plate to resemble a pie, decorating segmented parts of the plate as various types of pie.
2. On another plate (split in the same number of sections as the first), write ways of acting humbly or taking on the role of a servant.
3. Cut the first plate so that the pie "pieces" can be lifted up one at a time.
4. Attach the "pie" plate to the descriptions plate with a staple or fastener.
5. Add a hanger if desired. Lift the flaps to read the descriptions underneath.



Philippians 2:8 NIV

“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”



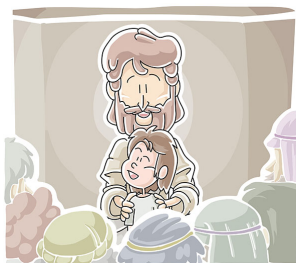


IS
FOR

obedience

Mandy Groce '12

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Word Search

Cross – Death – Equality – Christ – Jesus

Exalted – Confess – Servant – Obedient – Lord

G	O	P	L	S	Y	N	G	C	N	C
A	P	A	O	M	E	Z	Q	D	C	O
D	H	K	R	Z	D	E	A	T	H	N
O	B	E	D	I	E	N	T	F	R	F
F	E	X	Y	N	S	J	O	O	I	E
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Q	F	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	S
R	Y	D	Z	S	N	K	N	U	A	J
L	U	K	E	S	T	N	O	I	Z	W

Word Search Answers

