

LESSON 68

The Humility of Christ

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-11



— BIBLE TRUTH —

CHRIST IS OUR EXAMPLE AND OUR MOTIVATION FOR GODLY LIVING

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 146)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 68—one for each child; markers or crayons

The Servant King

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a crutch
- ✓ a loaf of bread
- ✓ a sandal
- ✓ a wine or grape juice bottle
- ✓ a towel
- ✓ a short, thick branch or piece of lumber

Made Himself Nothing

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a child-size king’s costume, including a scepter, royal sash, crown, throne (decorated chair), sword, jewels and necklaces (not too feminine)
- ✓ a servant’s costume, including a robe, sandals, towel, and large nails

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn how Jesus humbled himself by leaving heaven to come down to earth and die on the cross to save us from our sins. The Bible tells us that all who believe in Jesus should follow his example and live to serve others, not just serve themselves.

Ask the children the following questions:

- Did your mom ever tell you not to be selfish? To share with others?
(Draw out the children here and give them a couple examples of how a mom might ask them to share.)

- Does anybody know why we share with others? Why do we think that is important?
(They may have some good reasons which you can affirm, like obeying their parents or to be kind. Ultimately, we want them to realize the reason why we share is because of what Jesus did in giving up his life for us.)

Have the children do this exercise by performing the following motions as you share what Jesus did for us:

Jesus in his glory (Have them raise their hands above their heads, wiggle their fingers, and stand on their tiptoes. Tell them this represents Jesus in all his glory [the fingers wiggling] above all the creation [standing tall on their tiptoes])

But made himself nothing (Stop wiggling fingers, let your hands drop to your sides.)

Taking the form of a servant (Drop to their hands and knees and scrub the floor.)

Obedient to death (Stand up and hold out arms in cross.)

Even death on a cross (Lower their heads and die, then crumple to the ground.)

God has highly exalted him (Stand up and raise hands.)

The name above every name (Wiggle fingers again.)

At this point say "Now we are going to respond."

Every knee shall bow (Have all the children respond by kneeling and bowing.)

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Have the children lift their hands.)

Talk to the children about what Jesus did in dying on the cross for us and how when we trust Jesus, we want to follow him. That is why we should humble ourselves and serve others.

Take time to pray and thank God for Jesus becoming a man in humility. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 146, “The Humility of Christ,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What does it mean to humble yourself?**
(If you humble yourself you treat others better than you treat yourself.)

- **How did Jesus humble himself?**
(He gave up the glory of heaven that belongs to him as God to come to earth as a man.)

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.

- What were some of the ways Jesus served?

(He multiplied the fish and fed the people, he healed the sick, he forgave sins, he died on the cross to take our punishment.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

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

- What did God the Father do to Jesus after he died?

(He raised him from the dead and exalted him in heaven [Philippians 2:9–10].)

- What does the Bible say Jesus will receive from everyone?

(One day, every person will bow his knee to Jesus, praising him as King over all.)

- How can we follow Jesus' example of servanthood?

(We can serve others [Philippians 2:4].)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

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.)

The Servant King

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a crutch
- ✓ a loaf of bread
- ✓ a sandal
- ✓ a wine or grape juice bottle
- ✓ a towel
- ✓ a short, thick branch or piece of lumber

Tell the children that Jesus is a servant King. Though he is God, he didn't come to be served but to serve many (Matthew 20:28). See if the children can guess how Jesus served when you show them the following objects. End with the branch and use it to talk about Philippians 2:8.

Crutch—Jesus healed the sick.

Bread—Jesus fed the multitude.

Sandal—Jesus brought the good news to the people.

Wine—Jesus turned the water to wine at the wedding feast.

Towel—Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

Branch—Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many by dying on the cross.

Made Himself Nothing

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a child-size king's costume, including a scepter, royal sash, crown, throne (decorated chair), sword, and jewels and necklaces (not too feminine)
- ✓ a servant's costume, including a robe, sandals, towel, and large nails
- ✓ Dress one of the children up as a king with the costume elements above.

Read Philippians 2:5–7. Tell the children that in order for Jesus to become a man he had to set aside his God-like qualities and make himself nothing. One by one, take away the elements of the costume in the following order:

- Throne and scepter—Jesus gave up his heavenly throne for a humble life on earth.
- Crown and sash and jewels—Jesus gave up his glory as King.
- Sword—Jesus gave up his position as the all-powerful King of heaven to become a servant.

Then have Jesus take on the costume of a servant:

- Robe—Jesus took on the nature of a man, a servant.
- Sandals—Jesus came to walk the earth as a servant, not be carried as a king.
- Towel—Jesus came to serve and be an example.
- Large nails—Jesus came to give his life for us by dying in our place on the cross to take the penalty for our sin.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 68 - THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST

