



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 68

THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST

Christ is our example and our motivation for godly living.



MONDAY

THE STORY: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

Consider others better than yourself. Paul's command that we live in humility, considering others better than ourselves, flows from the gospel. Good works need to flow out of our love for Christ and what He did for us on the cross. Paul makes that perfectly clear. Our obedience comes from the encouragement of being united with Christ. Our comfort comes from His love and our fellowship with the Spirit of God. When our obedience flows out of our love for Christ, obedience is not a hardship but a joy, and our obedience in considering others better than ourselves results spreads that joy to them as well.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does thinking about what God did for us motivate us to live for God? (The Bible tells us in 1 John 4:19 that we love others because God first loved us. It is Christ's sacrifice that frees us from our sin, and Christ's example teaches us the path of righteousness.)

When we are selfish, what are we forgetting about God? (We can be sure that in the moment of our selfishness, we have forgotten the great sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf and are not enjoying His abundant grace.)

When are you most tempted to think of yourself and forget the sacrifice of Jesus? (Parents, lead with your own confession and then draw out your children.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help each member of your family remember the sacrifice of Christ as we work to live unselfish lives.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

Christ is our example in humility. This passage first confirms the deity of Christ and the harmony within the Godhead. There is no competition between the Father and the Son. Jesus willingly emptied Himself of glory and took on the nature of man. He never ceased to be God while laying aside His glory to take on the body of a man. In His high priestly prayer, Jesus confirmed the setting aside of His glory when He prays: “Glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with before the world began” (see John 17:5).

Paul tells us to look to Christ’s example of humility and follow His willingness to make Himself nothing.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why is the example of Christ’s humility a good one? (When Jesus left his place of glory as God to become a man, it was a greater demonstration of humility than we could ever demonstrate.)

When are you most tempted to think of yourself over others? (Parents, lead with your own confession and then draw out your children.)

PRAY:

Ask the Lord to help you follow His example and live for Him.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: PHILIPPIANS 2:8

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.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why was it important for our salvation that Jesus became a man? (It was man that deserved punishment and it was the sins of man that Jesus took upon Himself. When Jesus became a man, He became our representative. As our representative, He was able to stand in for us and receive our punishment. In Romans 5:19, Paul said “For just as through the disobedience of the one man [Adam] the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man [Jesus] the many will be made righteous.”)

Why was the cross the greatest demonstration of the humility of Christ? (The Bible tells us that anyone who is hung on a tree is cursed of God. For Jesus to die on the cross would mean for Him to be cursed by his Father. The sinless Christ should never have been subjected to such humiliation. He did it out of love for us.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for His willingness to endure the suffering of the cross for our benefit.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

God exalted Christ over all. Because of Christ's unmatched humility and obedience in dying on the cross, God exalted Him to the highest place and made the name of Jesus unmatched in greatness. One day every knee will bow and recognize the kingship of Christ. On that day no one will stand in opposition before Him. Even those who denied Christ in this life will know and confess to their shame that Jesus Christ is Lord. We who have been saved will know Him as the author of our salvation. But those who rejected him will know Him as the eternal judge who sentences them to eternal fire. The gospel opens our eyes that we might worship Him freely without fear of judgment.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did God do as a result of Jesus humbling Himself? (God exalted Jesus to the highest place.)

What does God promise to do for us when we humble ourselves? (God promises to give us grace and exalt us as well [see James 4:6 and Matthew 23:12].)

How can knowing this help us remain humble? (If we know God will take care of exalting us, we don't need to try and exalt ourselves. If we simply serve others and leave the exalting to God, we will one day be rewarded for our service. Living for a future reward is encouraged by God in the Bible, as long as we are willing for that reward to come to us in heaven and not on this earth. We are to live for heavenly treasure and reward.)

PRAY:

Pray that God would help each member of your family live a humble life in service to others.



**FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

THE STORY: PSALM 72:11-19

This passage in the book of Psalms is remarkably similar to the exaltation of Christ in Philippians 2:9-11. Both speak of knees bowing before the Lord and the exaltation of His name. Both end with the praise and glory of God being lifted up. Jesus is clearly the king mentioned in this psalm.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What other similarities to Jesus do you see in this psalm? (Parents, draw your children out. They should notice that Jesus took pity on the weak and the needy, that He saved us all from death, etc.)

How does this psalm affect your thoughts and heart? (Draw out your children. If they say they do not know, have them think about it in their own personal devotions. Tell them to place their name in the text to personalize it. For example, “He will deliver Marty who cries out,” and “He will take pity on Emily who is weak and save her from death.”)

PRAY:

Thank God for Jesus, who was willing to die on the cross for our sins so that we could be saved from death.