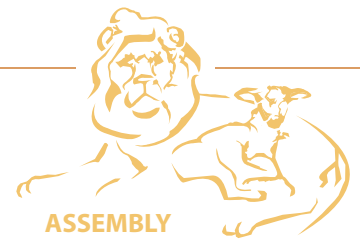


## THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: PHILIPPIANS 2:3-11



*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### THE SERVANT KING

#### Supplies

- one medium towel
- one sandal
- one short thick branch
- a loaf of bread
- one wine or grape juice bottle
- one crutch

Tell the children that Jesus was a servant King. Though he was 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 various 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 preaching from town to town

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

### MAKING HIMSELF NOTHING

#### Supplies

bring in a king's costume for the children including a scepter, royal sash, crown, throne (decorated chair), sword, jewels and necklaces (not too feminine), and a servant's costume; including a robe, sandals, towel, and large nails

Dress one of the boys 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.

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### A FOUNDATION OF SERVANTHOOD

#### Supplies

- soft mat or carpet
- a Polaroid or digital camera

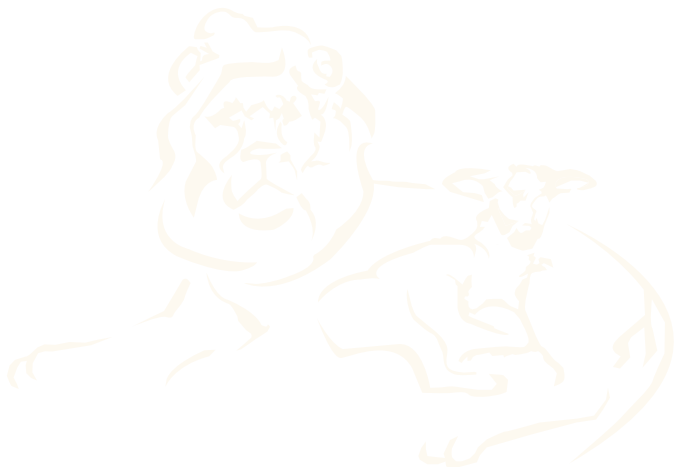
Divide the class into teams of 6 children. Explain to the children that you are going to build pyramids. Three children on the bottom, two children in the middle and then one child on top.

Ask the children who would like to be the person on top. (The children should be excited and many of them will raise their hands.) Explain to the children that in order to have a person on top you need five servants to form the pyramid below, and ask for volunteers. Make sure you have adults to "spot" the children and walk them through forming a pyramid.

The first three children (boys work well on the bottom) should get on their hands and knees, shoulder to shoulder. The next two kneel on top of them, and finally help the person for the top to balance on his knees and raise his hands in victory. Take their picture.

Ask the children the following questions:

- Who looks like the most important person in the pyramid? (The person on top.)
- Who are the servants helping that person? (All those below the person on top, especially the first three who are holding up the weight of everyone else.)
- What would happen if one of the servants below decided he didn't want to serve and he just quickly got up and walked away? (The pyramid would fall.)
- How did Jesus serve us? (He died on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sin.)



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### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

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 yet fully man. Because of His deity He could be sinless; because of His humanity He could take our place upon the cross.

