

April 19: Lean On Me

Bible Story: Lean on Me (Servant Principle) • *Philippians 2:3-8*

Bottom Line: Put others first because Jesus put you first.

Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3 (NIRV)

Life App: Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Story Experience Outline

As the Story Experience Leader, you win when you engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

1. Intro (5 Minutes)

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

A. Welcome

- “Hi, everyone! Welcome once again to [your environment’s name]!”
- “All month we’ve been talking about Jesus and how He turned everything upside down . . . with humility!”
- CG: Humility Slide
- Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App
- “Humility is putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve
- CG: Theme Slide
- Optional Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme
- “Every day, we have chances to show humility to the people around us. Maybe it’s letting someone go ahead of you in line . . . or letting someone else decide what position they want to play. Really, it just means that you think of others more, instead of yourself. Does that sound easy? It’s not. But it helps when we remember how Jesus showed humility for US.

A. Scripture

- And the Bible talks about this:
- “*Don’t do anything only to get ahead. Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves,* Philippians 2:3 (NIRV).

B. Bible Story Lead Up

- “As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did.”
- “There’s a question that people used to ask, years ago, that’s still a good way to think about this today. W-W-J-D? What would Jesus do?”
- Have you ever tried that? How did it work for you?

C. Use this question to help them engage with the video:

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- Let's learn about this more in our story today ...

2. Bible Story & Video (On-Screen 11:57)

3. Reflection (5 Minutes)

D. Reflection

- When people talk about Jesus today, there are so many amazing things that we remember about Him. We look back on His life, His teachings, and the way He treated people.
- “That was definitely true back then, in the years just after Jesus had died and come back to life. When the apostle Paul wrote to the people at the church in Philippi, he wanted them to remember all the ways Jesus had put us first. He knew that then they'd be able to put each other first as well.
 - **[Basic Truth] we can trust God no matter what.**

E. Application

CG: Bottom Line Slide

- “In the moment, when you feel frustrated or angry, it can be hard to stop and ask yourself what Jesus might do in that situation. But it's important to press PAUSE, take a breath, and then choose to respond in a humble way. What would Jesus do? He would choose humility. He already DID choose humility—for you and me. Now—in our normal, everyday lives, with the people we see every day—we can follow Jesus' example. We can put others first.
 - “Remember this:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

- **[Bottom Line] “Jesus put us first.**
- “And just as He turned the whole world upside down, He can turn things around for you, too.
- Verse of the month
- And the Bible talks about this:
- *“Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves, Philippians 2:3 (NIRV).*
- *Let's read it together! Repeat!*
- “No one had ever seen the kind of humility that Jesus showed. The way He had treated people was unforgettable. Jesus had put people first—showing them love and compassion—even when no one else would. And of course, the biggest, most incredible act of humility that Jesus showed was when He gave up His life for us. That single act was completely upside down from the way things normally worked, and it changed the whole world!

F. Pray

- “God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for His life, for His teaching, and for the example He gave of how we should treat others. In the heat of the moment, when things are at their craziest for us, please help us hear the nudge of Your Holy Spirit. Help us to think like Jesus and act like Him. Help us to take His example and live it out in our lives. Please help us to slow down long enough to remember what Jesus did and put others first, like He did. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.”

G. Close

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- “Today, we can follow Jesus’ example with the way we treat the people around us—whether it’s someone we’ve just met or someone we see every day of our lives.
- **CG: Bottom Line Slide**
- **[Bottom Line] “Put others first because Jesus put you first.**
- “We can think about Jesus and remember how He put us first. Then we can choose to show the same honor, respect, and love to others that we’d want THEM to show US. We can choose to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated.**
- “Let’s head to our small groups and talk about how we can follow Jesus’ example.”

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

Bible Story Outline

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SETTING UP THE STORY

- Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins and then came back to life
- Jesus changed the way people thought about God
- He made a way for us to have a relationship with God, without sin being in the way
- Jesus also changed the way people thought about how they should treat others
- The apostle Paul wrote about that in a letter to a church in Philippi
- Paul couldn’t visit the Philippians because he was in prison
- Paul wanted to encourage them to live like Jesus did
- **Philippians 2:3, 5-8**

LOOKING UP

- Paul said that we should look at the ways Jesus showed humility . . . and then we can choose to be humble ourselves
- What does it really look like to value others more than yourself?
- Scenario: wrapped up in a TV show instead of finishing homework, feeding the dog
- When you’re thinking about yourself, you don’t have time to think about other people and what THEY might need
- We can start putting others first by remembering what Jesus did for us
- Then we can choose to follow His example and show others that they’re important

NO NEED TO BRAG

- Scenario: bragging about money, possessions (the “one-up challenge)
- Like Paul wrote, it helps when you remember what Jesus did for you
- Jesus didn’t take advantage of the fact that He is God’s Son
- He always looked to SERVE others
- **Philippians 2:6-7**

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PK FIRE

- Scenario: picking the video game, picking the character, bickering with siblings
- It's not okay to be selfish or lose your temper because you're not getting what you want
- Like Paul said, start by thinking about Jesus
- When you remember everything Jesus did for you, it's easier to follow His example
- Then you can choose to put your brother or sister FIRST

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

- **Philippians 2:5**
- What would Jesus do?
- When you feel frustrated or angry, it can be hard to stop and ask yourself what Jesus might do
- Press PAUSE, take a breath, and choose to respond in a humble way
- Jesus chose humility for you and me
- We can follow His example
- **BL: Put others first because Jesus put you first.**
- We can do it—with God's help

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