

Objective: Family members follow Christ's example of humility, putting others first and living out God's Word.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: In this section of his letter to the believers in Philippi, written around AD 62 while under house arrest in Rome, the apostle Paul taught us to humble ourselves and serve God and others as Christ did.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer this week with family members. **What is the incarnation? Answer:** The incarnation is the act by which the Son of God became a human being named Jesus, being born of the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:23).

Read the Word: Philippians 2:1-18

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children about how we are to humble ourselves and serve God and others as Christ did, putting others ahead of ourselves.



Key Truth: Believers Think and Act Humbly, Following the Supreme Example of Jesus (Philippians 2:1-11)

Paul instructed the Philippians to maintain unity and love in the body of Christ because of the encouragement, love, fellowship, affection, and compassion they had together in Christ (verses 1-2). This would lead them to humbly put others first and consider others' needs and interests as well as their own, just as Christ did (verses 3-5). They were to have the same humble mindset as Christ who was willing to set aside some of His rights as God and come in human form to save us. He was fully God and fully man (verses 6-8). Because He did this, God the Father has exalted Him above all others. One day all will bow before Him and acknowledge that Jesus is Lord (verses 9-11).



Key Truth: Believers Live Out What God Is Working in Them (Philippians 2:12-18)

Paul called the Philippians to *work out* their salvation by putting into practice in their daily living what the Spirit was working into their lives. He challenged them to let their actions and attitudes reflect their identity in Christ. At the same time, God would be working in them, giving them the will and power to do it if they relied on Him (verses 12-13). Working out their salvation included setting aside grumbling and complaining, and living in ways that are above criticism and wholesome in character. They were to hold fast to God's Word, obeying it with the return of Christ in view (verses 14-16). Paul could rejoice in Christ, even though he was in prison and might lose his life for his faith. He urged the believers to rejoice with him (verses 17-18).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- In what ways did Christ humble Himself?
- **What are some ways we can follow Christ's example and demonstrate humility?**
- In what ways did Christ put others' needs ahead of His own?
- In what ways can we follow Christ's example and put others' needs ahead of our own?
- What attitudes and actions promote unity with fellow believers?
- What does it look like to live out our salvation?
- **In what way will you humble yourself and put the needs of others ahead of your own this week?**
- In what way can you more fully live out your salvation this week, depending on the Holy Spirit's help?
- **What are three ways you can have an attitude like Jesus?**

Everyday Extras

Watch the classic "Mirror Scene" from the movie, *Duck Soup*. (It's easy to find on YouTube.) Your children may want to try to imitate the scene in a doorway at your home. Jesus is our example. When we try to do the things He would do and make the choices He would make, we are happier and those around us are happy too. These decisions, though, require us to think about others before we think about ourselves.

As a family, read Philippians 2:14. Hold one another accountable for obeying this verse this week. Impose a penalty for those who grumble or complain—parents included! You could do jumping jacks, pay a fine, sing a solo, or lose a privilege. Set a reward for those who are successful. Do your best to replace your complaining with thanksgiving this week. (If this is a struggle for your family, you can extend the challenge further than one week. Say the verse together every morning!)

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned during the storm, an angel told Paul the ship would wreck, but no one would die. Paul knew God was with him and told the people not to be afraid. The ship broke apart, and just as the angel had said, all 276 people on the ship made it safely to the island (Acts 27). God was with the people on the ship and **God Is With Us All the Time.**