

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.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

1. Early Arriver

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Play an alphabet game by having kids take turns finishing the following sentence with a name: "I can put [person's name] first."
- Begin with a name that starts with A. Then have the next kid add a name that begins with B. The next kid says a name that begins with C, and so on through the entire alphabet.
- Challenge kids to repeat all of the previous names then add a new one for each turn.
 - For example: "I can put Abby, Brock, and Cason first."
- When someone in the group has a name that starts with the letter the group is on, they can use that name!

2. Upside-Down Water Experiment

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Drinking glass or jar, water, plastic tub, towel, pieces of cardstock

What You Do:

- Demonstrate the following experiment that seems to defy gravity!
 - Working over the plastic tub to protect from spills, fill a jar or drinking glass to the brim with water.
 - Place the piece of cardstock over the top of the glass and hold securely.
 - Quickly turn the glass upside down (over the plastic tub) while maintaining pressure on the cardboard.
 - Slowly remove the hand that is holding the cardstock.
- Repeat the experiment by letting kids give it a try.
- Be sure to fill the jar to the brim and use a dry piece of cardstock each time.
- For a visual of the experiment, visit: <http://bit.ly/2MtMrrE>

What You Say:

“Turning a glass of water upside down and not spilling it seems to defy gravity. It’s not what you’d expect to happen. Jesus turns things upside down, too. He flips the way we think about ourselves and others. He challenges us to live differently. *[Transition]* **Let’s find out more in Large Group about the topsy-turvy, amazing things Jesus helps us do as we follow Him.**”

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Copy Dot**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bible, “Copy Dot” Activity Pages, markers

What You Do:

- Tell kids to choose partners and sit back to back.
- Give each kid a “Copy Dot” Activity Page and a marker.
- Without letting their partner see what they’re drawing, tell them to draw 10 large dots in random places anywhere on the top left grid.
- Explain that, at your signal, partners can turn around and show one another their pages but for only 10 seconds. Tell them to do their best to remember where each dot is on their partner’s page.
- When time is up, direct partners to turn back around.
- Give them 10 seconds to draw from memory their partner’s pattern of dots onto the top, right grid of their page.
- After 10 seconds, tell kids to stop and compare their drawings with their partner’s original to see how closely they match.
- Choose a few kids to read Philippians 2:3-4 aloud (or part of it from memory if they recognize verse 3 as this month’s memory verse).
- Ask partners to sit back to back again.
- Tell the group to listen as you read Philippians 2:5-8, which describes ways Jesus showed humility.
 - Every time they hear an example, have them draw a dot in any square on the bottom left grid.
 - Direct them to scatter the dots around the grid in random squares.
- Repeat the earlier challenge, but this time give partners only five seconds to look at one another’s pages before trying to duplicate the pattern on their own paper.
- If you have more time and Activity Pages, repeat the game two more times.
- Bring the group together.
- Ask kids to talk about ways they can imitate or copy Jesus by putting others first.
 - If needed, prompt the discussion by naming places they go, things they do, and people they are with.

What You Say:

“Copying dots exactly as you saw them wasn’t easy. You had to pay close attention to the pattern so that you could remember it. Then you had to picture it in your mind as you tried to draw it. That’s a lot like following Jesus’ example. We take a look at how Jesus did something, and then we tack it into our memory and try to duplicate it in our life. That’s not easy, is it? We usually want to look out for ourselves and put our own wants and needs ahead of others. Jesus turned those ideas upside down and gave us a different way to think and live. He wants us to copy HIM. He was humble and did things for others. Let’s remember to **[Bottom Line] put others first because Jesus put you first.**”

*** 2. Clump Sculptures****[Live for God | Application Activity]**

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Form teams of three or four kids.
- Call out an object or shape (see below).
 - Give kids 30 seconds to work with their team to clump together to form that shape using their bodies.
 - They can stand, scrunch together, lie down, or position themselves in any way necessary to create the shape of the item you name.
- Use the “Conversation Starters” after each of the shapes listed below to discuss ways we can show humility by putting others first.
 - Form the shape of the numeral one.
 - Finish this sentence: I can let others go first when . . .
 - Form the shape of a slice of pizza.
 - When there’s only one slice of pizza left and you are not the only one who wants it, what can you do?
 - Form the shape of a baseball and bat.
 - How would a good teammate put others first?
 - Form the shape of a heart.
 - How does putting others first demonstrate God’s love to them?
- If time allows, let teams come up with additional shapes and let others guess what they are and how they remind us of ways to show humility.

What You Say:

“Treating others with kindness and respect shows them God’s love. It’s one of the ways you can put others first. If you’re a follower of Jesus, God is shaping and molding you to be more like Jesus. He wants to show His love through you. This week, try doing the things we just talked about with our ‘Clump Sculptures.’ You can **[Bottom Line] put others first because Jesus put you first.**”

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids one way you will treat a friend or family member this week in order to put them first.)

3. Be Humball

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bibles, balls

What You Do:

- Start by asking if anyone can remember the book where we find this month’s memory verse.
- Review by having kids look up and read Philippians 2:3.
- Go over the meaning of the verse by reminding kids that “selfish ambition” (NIV) or “getting ahead” (NIRV) means we only do things that WE want to do and we don’t think about others.
 - Tell them that “vain conceit” (NIV) means thinking you’re more important than others are.
 - Or, if kids know the meaning of the phrases above, let them tell you what they know, in their own words!
- Let kids choose a partner.
- Give each pair a ball.
- Assign each partner half of the verse.
- Ask kids to line up in two lines, with partners facing each other a few feet apart.
- The person assigned to the first part of the verse says his half, bounces the ball to his partner, and takes a step back.
- The partner who receives the ball repeats the process by saying her half of the verse, returning the ball, and taking a step back.
- See how far apart partners can get before they drop the ball.
- Switch partners and play again as time allows.
- For an additional challenge, have partners see who can say their part of the verse the loudest, softest, lowest, highest, or fastest.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “Put others first because Jesus put you first. God wants us to think about others’ needs and treat them the way Jesus did. The Bible teaches us about humility because God thinks it’s important, and He wants us to be humble instead of proud and selfish. Jesus gave us His example to follow. He put God’s plan first, which meant He did something wonderful for us. He died on the cross, rose from the dead, and is our Savior now and for always.”

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Index cards, markers

What You Do:

- Point out that humility is upside down from the way most people live. God wants us to think of others and be willing to put them first. We need God’s help to do that.
- Give each kid an index card and marker.
- Ask everyone to write their name upside down on the index card.
- Exchange cards.

- Use the prayer prompts below to lead kids in prayer for the person whose name is on the card.
- Kids can switch cards with someone else after each prayer, or they can pray all the prayers for the same person. (Help them navigate this without hurting feelings if someone wants to trade cards with someone who doesn't want to trade.)
 - Thank God for loving your friend so much that He gave him/her Jesus.
 - Ask God to help your friend watch for ways to put others first at home this week.
 - Ask God to help your friend watch for ways to put others first at school this week.
 - Pray for your friend to remember today's Bottom Line: ***[Bottom Line]* Put others first because Jesus put you first.**

What You Say:

"Dear God, it's not easy for any of us to put others first. Most of the time we're looking out for ourselves, doing what WE want, making sure we're okay. But You turned that way of thinking upside down and showed us what it looks like to think of others. Help us this week to follow Your example at home, at school, at church, and everywhere in between. In Jesus' name, amen."