



Helping Kids Practice Humility God's Way

When I Want to Be First

Lesson Aim

Kids will understand that true greatness in God's Kingdom is not about being first or best but about choosing to serve, share, and put others first.

Scripture Focus

- "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:14, ESV)
- "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3, ESV)

Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: *"Have you ever wanted to be first in line or the first to win a game? How did it feel when you didn't get to be first?"*

Teach

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell the story of The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9–14)

Jesus once told a story about two men who went to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, a religious leader who thought he was very important. The Pharisee stood tall and prayed loudly so everyone could hear: "God, I thank you that I'm not like other people. I pray, I give money, I follow the rules." He was proud of himself and wanted others to notice.



Church Lesson | Humility

The other man was a tax collector. People didn't like tax collectors because they often cheated others, but this man came humbly before God. He wouldn't even look up to heaven. He beat his chest and prayed quietly, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." He knew he needed God's help and forgiveness.

Then Jesus explained the lesson: the proud Pharisee left the temple still stuck in his pride, but the humble tax collector left forgiven and close to God. Jesus said, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

This story shows us that God doesn't want us to brag or try to be the most important. What matters most to God is a humble heart. In His Kingdom, the last will be first.

- **Discussion Questions:**

- Why do you think the Pharisee wanted everyone to notice his prayer?
- How was the tax collector's prayer different from the Pharisee's?
- What do you think it means that "the last will be first" in God's Kingdom?

- **Explain:**

- Humility means admitting we need God and choosing to put others first.
- God sees the heart. He honors those who come to Him with humility, not pride.

Model

- **Teacher shares:** a time when you had to let someone else go first or give up being noticed, and how it turned out to be better than you expected.
- **Student activity:** Invite kids to act out modern-day examples of humility. One child can role-play letting a sibling go first in line, giving away the bigger slice of cake, or cheering for a classmate who won. Others can guess what the action shows. Or play a quick round of Pictionary where kids draw pictures of humility in action, like helping a friend carry books or choosing the smaller prize.

Pray

- "Lord, thank You for loving us and reminding us that we don't have to be first to be important to You. Help us to practice humility by putting others first and living with thankful hearts. Amen."

Craft/Activity

- Kids can make a "**First Shall Be Last**" crown out of paper. On the outside, they write "*In God's Kingdom, the last will be first.*" Inside, they write or draw one way they will practice humility this week (sharing, waiting patiently, letting someone else go first). The crown reminds them that true greatness comes through humility.

Key Takeaway

- True greatness comes from caring about others' needs before our own.