



## Helping Kids Practice Humility God's Way

### When I Want to Be First

Raising Christ-Centered Kids | Character | Humility

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“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:14, *ESV*)

#### Key Takeaway

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

#### The Biblical Meaning of Humility

Humility means remembering who God is and who we are. God is the Creator; we are His children. Everything we have—our life, our talents, even our next breath—is a gift from Him. Scripture reminds us, “What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7, *ESV*). When we see life this way, we don't need to fight for attention or brag about being the best.

The Bible also tells us that God honors the humble. Jesus said, “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:12, *ESV*). Humility frees us from the endless game of trying to be noticed or prove we're more important than others. Instead, it opens our hearts and hands to serve, share, and bless.



### Understanding Humility: When I Want to Be First

Kids often want to be first—first in line, first to answer, first to win. Parents know this feeling too. But Jesus flips this upside down. He says that in His Kingdom, the greatest person is the one who serves. That doesn't mean your child can't lead or shine. It means learning when to step back—like letting a classmate go ahead in line or giving the bigger cookie to a friend. These small acts show that real greatness comes from helping, not from being first.

When kids only chase being first, they end up frustrated when someone else gets ahead. But when they choose to put others first, they find a different kind of joy. Humility reminds them their worth doesn't depend on winning or being noticed. It's already secure in God's love. Simple choices—waiting patiently, celebrating someone else's success, or quietly helping a friend—teach kids that in God's Kingdom, greatness looks like serving.

### Practical Steps: Helping Kids Practice Humility God's Way

1. **Give Someone Else the First Turn** — Let a friend or sibling go ahead in line.
2. **Celebrate Others' Wins** — Cheer when someone else does well.
3. **Choose the Smaller Piece** — Pick the smaller cookie and give the bigger one away.
4. **Help Without Being Asked** — Offer to carry, share, or clean up.
5. **Pray for a Humble Heart** — Ask God daily to help you put others first.

### Scripture for Parents and Kids

- "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." (Matthew 23:12, *ESV*)
- "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3, *ESV*)
- "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6, *ESV*)

### Encouragement for Parents

Humility is built in everyday moments. Each time your child lets someone else go first, cheers for another's success, or helps without being asked, they are practicing Christlike character. And they'll learn best by watching you. When you let someone merge in traffic, give away credit at work, or serve without expecting thanks, you're modeling humility in action. These small but powerful choices show your child that in God's Kingdom, the last will be first.

### CTMP Corner: Kingdom Kids in Action

- **Connect:** Ask your child about a time they wanted to be first today.
- **Teach:** Remind them Jesus says the last will be first in God's Kingdom.
- **Model:** Show humility by letting someone else go ahead of you.
- **Pray:** "Lord, help us put others first and find joy in serving like Jesus."