



Helping Kids Let Go of Pride God's Way

When You Try to Take God's Place

Lesson Aim

Kids will understand that pride turns us inward, but humility turns our hearts back to God and keeps us grounded in His truth.

Scripture Focus

- “But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” (Matthew 14:30, *ESV*)
- “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6, *ESV*)

Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: “Can you think of a time you wanted to do something all by yourself but later realized you needed help? How did it feel when someone helped you?”

Teach

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell the story of Peter Walking on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)

After teaching a large crowd, Jesus sent His disciples ahead of Him in a boat while He went up on a mountain to pray. As night fell, the wind grew strong, and the waves crashed around them. Suddenly, the disciples saw someone walking toward them on the water! Terrified, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!” But Jesus called back, “Take heart; it is I. Don’t be afraid.”

Peter shouted, “Lord, if it’s really You, tell me to come to You on the water.” Jesus said, “Come.” So, Peter climbed out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. For a few amazing moments, his eyes stayed fixed on Jesus—and his faith held him up. But when Peter looked at the wind and waves, fear took over. He stopped trusting Jesus’



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power and started focusing on himself and his own weakness. In that moment, he began to sink.

“Lord, save me!” he cried. Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” Jesus said, “why did you doubt?” When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped, and the disciples worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” Peter learned that pride could grow out of fear—when we stop trusting God’s care and turn inward, trying to control what we can’t. Humility helps us look up again, trusting God to lift us when we sink.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why did Peter start to sink when he looked away from Jesus?
2. How is pride like trying to walk on water by yourself?
3. What do you think humility means when we talk about trusting God?

- **Explain:**

- Pride closes our hearts to God’s help, but humility opens them wide.
- Being humble means staying grounded in God’s truth instead of trying to take control ourselves.

Model

- **Teacher shares:** a personal story of a time you tried to do something by yourself before realizing you needed to stop and ask God for help.
- **Student activity:** Invite kids to role-play or draw simple scenes showing the difference between pride and humility, like refusing help instead of asking for help, or bragging rather than giving thanks. After each scene, talk about how humility heals the heart by trusting God’s strength instead of our own.

Pray

- “Dear God, thank You for loving us even when we try to do things our own way. Help us be humble and remember that You are the one who gives us strength. Teach us to look up to You instead of only at ourselves. Amen.”

Craft/Activity

- **Grounded in God’ Craft:** Give each child a small paper cup and card labeled “Humility = Grounded in God.” Fill it with soil or draw dirt at the bottom. On top, have the children glue a paper flower or plant that says Faith Grows Here. Explain that pride hardens the heart, but humility is the soft soil where faith can grow.

Key Takeaway

- Pride says, “I can do it alone.” Humility says, “God, I need You.”