

Real Humility

Lesson 10



Scripture: Luke 18:9-14










Bible Memory: Romans 12:9, 10, 13

Focus: ♥ Show humility.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Ask God to help you live in such a way that others, including the preteens you teach, will know you are truly seeking God's will and His way. Do not fall prey to the temptation of comparing yourself with others. Don't pretend to be a perfect person, but ♥ show humility. Recognize that you need God's forgiveness for your sins. Focus on God—only He can meet your deepest needs.

Lesson 10 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>explore what it means to show humility</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Showing Humility?</p> <p> Option Talk About It</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources CD Showing Humility? printable file • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors, pencils, Bible • none
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>tell what Jesus taught about humility</i>.</p>	<p> Bible Exploration Luke 18:9-14</p> <p> Bible Memory Romans 12:9, 10, 13</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 10 • Resources sheet 7 • none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils • Bibles • Bibles, a variety of Bible concordances, paper, pencils
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>discover ways to show humility</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step What Do You Think?</p> <p> Option Story Endings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 10 • Resources CD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • paper lunch bags, markers, CD player
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>plan to show humility</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Take the Humility Challenge</p> <p> Option Thinking Less</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 10 • Resources CD Thinking Less printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • scissors, pencils

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one or more of these activities to help students **explore what it means to show humility.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step Showing Humility?

Before class, cut apart the cards on the printable file. Keep the cards in the two sets separate.

Hand out cards from Set 1 to volunteers who would like to read. Have the volunteers stand up in the front of the room. SAY: **Let's think about what it means to ♥ show humility. After each person reads what's on the card, we'll vote on whether or not we think that person is showing humility.** Hand a pencil to one of the volunteers, and tell her to read her card. **Give a thumbs-up if you think this person is showing humility.** Pause as preteens do this. **Give a thumbs-down if you think this person is *not* showing humility.** Pause as preteens do this. Do the same for all the cards in Set 1; students can hold the pencil as they speak. Then do the same for the cards in Set 2; students can hold a Bible as they speak.

ASK: **What does it mean to ♥ show humility?** (to not be proud or arrogant, to not think of myself as better than others, to put others first, to not brag or be selfish or conceited)

SAY: **Let's dig into God's Word and see what Jesus teaches about showing humility.**

Option Talk About It

ASK: **What does it mean to ♥ show humility?** (to not be proud or arrogant, to not think of myself as better than others, to put others first, to not brag or be selfish or conceited)

Have students get into pairs. SAY: **Here's the first situation you'll talk about: You won the big spelling contest. One of you is to talk about this with your partner in a way that shows humility. The other person is to talk about this with your partner in a way that does *not* show humility. Go!** Give preteens time to do this. **This time, reverse roles. Here's the next situation you'll talk about: Your parents bought you the newest, coolest phone there is! Go!** Give preteens time to do this.

ASK: **How do people talk and act when they're not being humble?** (they're proud, selfish, arrogant, conceited; they like to show off; they think they're better than others)

SAY: **Let's dig into God's Word and see what Jesus teaches about showing humility.**

Focus

- ♥ Show humility.

Materials

Resources CD Showing Humility? printable file, scissors, pencil, Bible



Materials

none



Tech Tip

Go to www.youtube.com and type in "showing humility for kids." You might find a video about humility to show in class.



See the *Resources CD* Special Needs Helps 10 printable file for activity adaptations.

Focus

♥ Show humility.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **tell what Jesus taught about humility.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Jesus always knew how to meet the needs of His audience and to speak to them in ways they would understand. In this instance, Jesus was speaking to individuals who were “confident of their own righteousness.” Jesus took the opportunity to expose their pompous attitudes by telling a story with a deep meaning, or parable.

The Pharisee probably went to the temple because it was a public place and he could be applauded for his devotion. In Jesus’ story, this man prayed about himself. There was no room for others in his praying, and worse, there was little room for God. The Pharisee may have been innocent of the acts committed by the groups he named, but other sins, such as pride, slander, and even the idolatry of self-worship, are apparent in his prayer.

The tax collector, on the other hand, made no excuses and compared himself with no one. He humbly acknowledged that only God could meet his needs. He was a man who focused on God. Jesus left His listeners with no doubt as to which man in the parable displayed an attitude that was pleasing to God. The tax collector had been a great sinner, yet out of this humble man’s sin came the greatness of his repentance and the blessing of God’s grace. A life lived humbly is pleasing to God.

Materials

Bibles, *Activities* for lesson 10, pencils



Note

The Scripture text is provided on the *Resources* CD in both the *New International Version* and the *King James Version*, if you want kids to read from the same Bible version.

Tech Tip

Go to www.biblegateway.com or a similar website to play a dramatized reading of the Bible verses.

Bible Exploration Luke 18:9-14

SAY: In today’s Scripture passage, Jesus tells a parable.

ASK: What is a parable? (a story that has deeper meaning, a story that helps people think about things in a new or different way)

SAY: When Jesus told parables—stories with deeper meanings—He used language and examples the people could understand. In Bible times, Pharisees were religious men who were specially trained in the Old Testament law. Unfortunately, they added many strict rules and customs of their own to God’s law. Jesus often spoke against the Pharisees because their laws were more important to them than people were. A tax collector was a Jewish man who had been hired by the Romans to collect tax money. Most people did not like tax collectors because they worked for the Romans and often cheated people, forcing people to pay more taxes than required.

SAY: Let’s think about what’s going on in this parable and see whether we can discover the deeper meaning of Jesus’ story. Ask preteens to turn in their Bibles to Luke 18:9-14. Have volunteers read the verses aloud.

ASK: To whom did Jesus address this parable? (those who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else)

Ask for two volunteers who would like to do some acting. Assign one to be the Pharisee and the other one to be the tax collector. As you read the passage again, they are to dramatize what the men were doing. Read the passage dramatically, and pause for the volunteers to act. When finished, thank them for their participation.

Distribute the leaflets, and have students look at the activity The Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Read the instructions. Let preteens work on the page alone or with a partner. When students are done, ask volunteers to read the sentences and tell how they answered them. (Answers: 1=to pray; 2=stood; 3=how great he was, what he did and didn't do; 4=was not justified before God; 5=to pray; 6=stood; 7=that he was a sinner, he asked God for mercy; 8=was justified before God)

ASK: **If Jesus were telling this parable today, what sins do you think the proud person might say he does not commit?** Accept responses.

According to Jesus' parable, what attitude should we have when we pray? (We should have an attitude of humility.)

Based on Jesus' parable, what should we say and not say to show humility when we pray? (We shouldn't compare ourselves to others; we should tell God about our own sins and weaknesses. We should ask God for His forgiveness and mercy.)

SAY: **Now that we've heard Jesus' parable, it's up to us to decide whether or not we will ♥ show humility as Jesus wants us to. Remember, Jesus said in Luke 18:14 that "those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."**

Bible Memory Romans 12:9, 10, 13

⁹"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

¹³Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

Continue to display the Romans 12 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Have preteens find Romans 12:9, 10, 13 in their Bibles, and ask volunteers to read the verses aloud. Ask volunteers to lead the rest of the preteens in saying the Bible Memory while doing the motions they created in lesson 9.

ASK: **What do you see in these verses that has to do with humility?** (We have to ♥ show humility in order to be devoted to one another in love and to honor others above ourselves. It takes a humble attitude to share with others and be hospitable.)

Have the volunteers lead in saying the Bible Memory again while doing the motions. Encourage preteens to memorize these important verses. SAY:

When you're tempted to be proud, arrogant, and conceited, think about these verses—and do what God wants you to. When you're tempted to be selfish and think only about yourself, think about these verses—and ♥ show humility.

Materials

Resources sheet 7,
Bibles



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the
Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 10 printable file.



Focus

♥ Show humility.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help students **discover ways to show humility.**

Materials

Activities for lesson 10,
pencils



Teaching Tip

If you have a large class, you could separate the students into three groups, assigning each group one of the situations to read and discuss.

Materials

paper lunch bags, markers,
Resources CD track 2, CD
player



Teaching Tip

If you have a small class, stay together as one group for preteens to use their puppets to talk to each other.

Quick Step What Do You Think?

SAY: Interview at least two people. Ask each person to share a way she has shown humility or has seen someone else ♥ show humility. After a few minutes, have at least a few preteens share what they learned in their interviews. **Showing humility can be hard—we want to take the credit, we want to brag about ourselves. But that’s not what followers of Jesus are to do.**

Ask preteens to turn in their leaflets to the activity What Do You Think? Read the instructions. Have a volunteer read the first question. Ask for volunteers to share how they would answer Wanna Win’s question. Lead in a discussion about the possible answers. Encourage preteens to write in their leaflets a response for that situation. Then do the same for the other two situations.

SAY: When we ♥ show humility the way Jesus wants us to, we admit our failings, and we know we need God’s help and forgiveness. We are good sports, and we receive compliments graciously. We respect others and put them first. We don’t think of ourselves as better than others.

Option Story Endings

Distribute the paper lunch bags and markers. Ask preteens to turn their lunch bags into puppets. When they’re finished, divide the class into trios.

SAY: Listen as some preteens talk about what’s going on in their lives. You’ll get to come up with endings to their stories that could help them ♥ show humility. Play track 2, pausing after the first situation.

SAY: In your trios, use your puppets to say to each other what you think the girl should say to people who congratulate her, as well as to her friends. Pause as preteens do this. After a short time, ask for a couple volunteers to share with the entire group what they think the girl should say. If no one mentions it, include these thoughts: The girl could say something like, “Thanks. God gave me a talent for spelling” when people congratulate her. It is OK to work hard and win. We just don’t want to brag about it, get a big head, and show off. She should show good sportsmanship and could congratulate her friends for working hard.

When ready, play the next two stories, and do the same as with the first one. In the last story, be sure to include the idea that showing humility includes admitting our failures and asking for forgiveness from God and from others.

SAY: When we ♥ show humility the way Jesus wants us to, we admit our failings, and we know we need God’s help and forgiveness. We are good sports, and we receive compliments graciously. We respect others and put them first. We don’t think of ourselves as better than others.

Live It Out (10 minutes)

4 Use one of these activities to help students **plan to show humility**.

Focus

♥ Show humility.

Quick Step Take the Humility Challenge

Have students turn in their leaflets to the activity Take the Humility Challenge. Ask a volunteer to read the challenge. SAY: **Take some time right now and write some ideas. We all can be selfish from time to time. Sometimes we can be selfish with our time. Other times we can be selfish with our money or things we have. Sometimes we can be selfish with our talents and abilities.** Give preteens time to work on this.

SAY: **Remember the tax collector Jesus described in His parable? The man was so aware of his own failures and sins that he “would not even look up to heaven” (Luke 18:13). Find a place in the room where you can be alone to pray. Look at what you just wrote and how you’re planning to ♥ show humility. Talk to God about it. Don’t look up or around until I tell you to do so.** After a brief time of silence, close in prayer.

Option Thinking Less

Before class, make enough copies of the printable file so that each student has one ruler.

SAY: **God’s Word tells us in Philippians 2:3 not to be selfish about anything, but to be humble and value others above ourselves. That means that we think more of others and less of ourselves.** Give each preteen one ruler. Tell students to turn over their rulers. **On the back of your ruler, write some ideas about how you plan to ♥ show humility, to think more of others and less of yourself.** Give preteens time to do this. When they’re finished, tell students to either fold their rulers or roll them up and place them in a Bible, a pocket, a shoe, or someplace where they’ll be reminded to show humility as Jesus wants us to.

Then ask preteens to gather for prayer. SAY: **Remember the tax collector Jesus described in His parable? The man was so aware of his own failures and sins that he “would not even look up to heaven” (Luke 18:13). Find a spot in the room where you can be alone to pray. You should pray silently with your eyes closed or facing downward. No one should look up or around until I tell you to do so. As you pray silently, focus on God’s greatness and confess your own sins or weaknesses to God. Ask God to help you ♥ show humility.** Allow about three minutes of silent prayer time. For many preteens, this will seem like a long time, but it will also teach the importance of coming quietly and humbly before God.

Materials

Activities for lesson 10, pencils



Materials

copies of *Resources CD* Thinking Less printable file (1 ruler per student), scissors, pencils



Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

