

Week of April 19

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: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility value others above yourselves.” *Philippians 2:3, NIV*

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.

Choose any of the 4 intro activities to do before you watch the video story

1. Mystery Bag

What You Need:

- Bag or pillowcase
- Various objects for a scavenger hunt that your kids will search for around your house:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| large spoon | markers | stuffed animal |
| washcloth | plastic dishes | LEGO® blocks |
| video game controller | sunscreen | tools |

What You Do:

- Explain that you are going to send them on a scavenger hunt.
- Send each person for one or two items at a time that they are to go and look for
- When they find the item they are to bring it back to you and put it in the pillowcase.
- Continue to do this until all the items have been found.
- Have a kid pick one item out of the pillowcase and tell how they would use that item for fun/enjoyment/etc.
- Once they've answered, ask them how they could use it for what someone else wants.
 - Examples: A video game controller could be used to play my favorite game. I could let my friend play with me even if he might mess up my levels. Or I could let my younger sibling try a game, give up video games for a week to spend time with my grandma, etc.

What You Say:

You all used these objects to show that we can use anything to put others first at any time! Yes, it is great for us to have fun, but it's also good to look for times to put others first sometimes.

2. Roll the Dice (for several people to play)

What You Need:

- A die (If you have a giant die, that's great!)
- *Optional:* Small prizes

What You Do:

- Have everyone form a line
- The first person in line rolls the die until they roll a six.
- As soon as they do, they run to the end of the line while the next child in line begins the “race to last.”
- Add excitement by giving each kid a prize when they successfully move to “last place.”

3. Leaning tower of Egg-sa

What you Need:

- Plastic Easter egg halves or blocks, sharable prizes, game show music (*optional*)

What You Do:

- Give the kids several egg halves or a set of blocks. Challenge them to use the eggs or blocks to build the tallest freestanding tower possible within a given time. The catch: as they add egg halves or blocks to the tower, they must add to the **BOTTOM** of the tower instead of to the top. (This will take teamwork and patience!)
- If a tower falls, they must start over.

4. Upside Down

What you Need:

- No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Challenge kids to come up with ways to “be upside-down.”
 - This could be upside down on a chair, doing a headstand, doing a handstand with a friend holding their feet, leaning over a table . . .
 - Any method goes, as long as they can stay safe while doing it!
- Let kids have a few minutes to practice their methods of being upside down, then let everyone take turns showing off their methods.
- Lead the group to vote on which method was the most creative, funniest, weirdest, etc. (Enlist kids' help in coming up with categories, too!)
 - The only rule with voting is that kids can't vote for their own methods.

What You Say:

“I think I prefer you all to be right side up . . . that was a bit nutty. But let's be honest, you all did a great job being upside down. [Transition] We've been talking all month about the upside way—how Jesus turned everything on its head. Let's hear more about it!”

Watch the video Story:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7011157/video/407627474>

After you watch the story

Apply the story #1: Serve it up!

What you Need:

- Paper and pen or pencil

What You Do:

- Explain to the kids that they will be going on a tour of your home.
- They will go into each room of your house and list one way that they could help someone else in that room. For example, if they are in the parents' bedroom, one way they can help is by letting mom and dad sleep in on a Saturday morning. If they are in their own room, they could make their bed. If they are in a sibling's room they can help them with their homework. You can also have them walk around the back yard and the front yard of the house to find things to help with.
- When they have written down or chosen one thing from each room (and outside), meet back at the starting point.
- Tell them to pick one or two of those things to do either right then, later that day, or in the coming week.

What You Say:

"Those were big jobs! And I've got to say, those might not be your favorite things to do, but what would be good about doing them?"

"I like that we get to [Bottom Line] put others first because Jesus put us first. What else can you do that this week?" (Invite responses: help out at home, do extra cleaning chores at school or the gym, assist an elderly neighbor or grandparent, etc.)

Apply the Story #2: "Drawing Sculptures"

What You Need:

- Paper
- Slips of paper with one of the following on each:
 - Slice of pizza
 - Baseball and bat
 - Drinking fountain
 - Birthday card
 - heart
- Pen or pencil

What You Do:

- Give the kids some paper and pen or pencil
- Have them select one of the slips of paper.
- Give kids 30 seconds to draw that shape on the paper.
- Have the others guess what shape they have drawn

- Use the “Conversation Starters” after each of the shapes listed below to discuss ways we can show humility by putting others first.
 - Slice of pizza.
 - When there’s only one slice of pizza left and more than one person wants it, what can you do?
 - Baseball and bat.
 - How would a good teammate put others first?
 - Drinking fountain.
 - How would you be a good friend if both of you just came in from outside and were really thirsty?
 - Birthday card.
 - How could you help a friend help celebrate their birthday? What if you were not invited to their party? How could you still be a friend to them?
 - Draw the shape of a heart.
 - How does putting others first show 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

“In this game, you put others first by doing what I asked, not what you wanted. Have you ever done that in real life? *(Invite responses: by obeying their parents instead of playing or by letting their sibling/friend choose an activity or meal instead of insisting on their own way.)*”

“There are a lot of opportunities in life to **[Bottom Line] put others first**. We don’t always see those opportunities when we focus only on what we want.”

Apply the Story #3: “I deserve...”

What You Need:

- Markers, “I Deserve . . .” Strips, Response strips , scissors

What You Do:

- Mix up and lay the scenario strips on one side of the table and the matching response strips on to the other side of the table.
- Have them take turns choosing one of the scenario strips and then try to find the one that best matches that scenario. Once they find the match, they should lay them out on the floor in the middle of the group.
- Read all the scenarios and answers aloud once they’re matched up.
- Discuss: When we do something good or work extra hard, what do we feel like we deserve?
 - What about when we don’t do what we’re supposed to? What do we deserve then?
 - What about Jesus—what did He deserve since He is God’s Son? *(To be treated like a king, be worshipped, etc.)* But instead, He gave up His life for all of us! He gave up the good that He deserved to take the punishment for sin that we deserved.

3. Apply the Story #4: Upside Down Water

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 seems impossible! Jesus turns things upside down, too. He flips the way we think about ourselves and others. He challenges us to live differently, and to show love to others even when we think it is impossible.”

Memory Verse Review: “Tic Tac Toe”

What You Need:

- Bibles (opened to Philippians 2:3);
- “Tic-tac-toe” grid activity page
- “Tokens” activity page

What You Do:

- Explain that you will be playing tic tac toe with the memory verse.
- Cut out the Xs and Os for the tokens
- Lay the “Tic-tac-toe” grid with the verse out on the table.
- Have one person be X and one person be O.
- Decide who will go first and have them lay their X or O on one of the squares. Make sure it covers up the words in that square.
- Give that person a chance to say the whole verse, including the phrase that is covered up by their marker. If they do that correctly, they can keep their X or O on that space.
- If they are incorrect or don’t know, the other person takes a turn.
- As they play, more and more of the phrases will be covered up, making more of a challenge to say the whole verse each time.
- Play until one person has three in a row, or until there’s a “draw/stalemate.”

- Play as many rounds as time allows.

What You Say:

“We can win our tic tac toe game by knowing our Bible verse! The best way to win at being humble—to show others God’s love for them by what you do—is to imitate Jesus and **[Bottom Line] put others first because Jesus put you first.**”

Prayer**What You Do:**

- Take time to again discuss your service project.
- Talk about the people who will be helped by your hard work.
- Pray for those whom you’ve served this week.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue us. Thank You that Jesus humbled Himself by putting us first and sacrificing Himself for us. Please be with the people we are able to serve. Show them Your love in a special way through our hard work. Amen.

God Time Pages

Throughout the week, use the activities on the God Time pages to reinforce the story (*provided in this PDF*)