

Teen Devotion

Year C – Lent 6 - Palm Sunday

Crushed



One truth shared: The apostle Paul describes the humility of Jesus and encourages us to imitate it.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!*

*Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Philippians 2:5-11

Palm Sunday: His Humility, Our Hope

It has been said that humility is “thinking of yourself less, not thinking ‘less of yourself.’” Humility can be difficult to learn, and sometimes it is easier to get stuck in a line of thinking that is self-deprecating and unhealthy.

What is true humility? Why is it important? Let’s look at Jesus.

Jesus is God. He is perfect and came down to Earth and became a human. He was still 100% God, but he humbled himself to be born in human form. He did many things that most people would consider to be “below them.” He washed his disciples’ feet. He ate with prostitutes, tax collectors, and people who were looked down on in society. Verse 8 of today’s Scripture says that he humbled himself even more by taking our place on the cross.

Our value comes from his love, which he demonstrates with humility. When the world tells us we are nothing, remember Jesus, who emptied himself so that we could be glorified. When we focus on Christ, everything falls into perspective for us as Christians. No longer do we need to feel hurt if we are not acknowledged as we thought we should be. Nor do we need to feel the desire to put others down to make us feel better about ourselves. Instead of focusing on self, let’s build others up and remind them of what God thinks of them. And should we forget, if we get caught up in the day-to-day minutia that clouds our thinking and judgement, we know our record is still spotless in God’s sight because of what he has done. There is no fear or shame to come to the Lord asking for forgiveness, because he has already died for those sins. It has been said that “The biggest sins we can’t forget, God cannot remember.”

Be like Christ. Be humble. Serve others. Let the love of God flow through you and around you. Be content, knowing what the Lord has in store for you. Your hope is grounded in his undying faithfulness. And if you must boast, boast in the Lord!

Prayer: Gracious and Almighty Lord, when I fall or my ego gets knocked down, forgive me and ground me in your Son. Help me to think of myself less, not less of myself. My value is found in your love and your life that was given for me. Keep me always mindful of the hope that is found in your humility that achieved my victory. Give me strength for today and every day until I see you and spend forever with you in glory. Amen.

Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

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One truth shared: The apostle Paul describes the humility of Jesus and encourages us to imitate it.

Palm Sunday: His Humility, Our Hope

Starting the Discussion: This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.

Word Puzzle: “Four Is Cosmic”

- This is a word puzzle that sounds like math, but if you can count to ten you should be able to handle it.

<http://35pytx37zdp5j4hfr35of829-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/hes-youth-sport-camps/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2020/05/Four-is-the-Cosmic-Number.pdf>

Once they have figured it out, or if some have figured it out, move onto the questions below.

- “Four Is Cosmic” is a word puzzle that makes the number four the ultimate number, but in every area of life there can be someone or something considered the best. For a jumpstart, consider: Ice cream flavors, foods, basketball / football / other sport players, funniest, loudest, most loving, most caring etc.

Connecting: This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they’ve looked at it.

Who in your personal life do you consider to be the most humble? Ask for volunteers to share who it is, and what makes them think that way.

Digging In: Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.

Read **Philippians 2:5**.

- Before Paul tells us about Jesus’ mindset, he tells us what do to with this information. Why do you think Paul begins this section with these words?
- Evaluate your mindset: Would your friends say you’re positive? Negative? Cautious? Cavalier? Optimistic? Pessimistic?
- Which attitude best aligns with what Jesus wants for our relationships? Why? (See James 1:22-25.)

Read **Philippians 2:6-8**.

- Jesus was God, and therefore was equal with God. But instead of using of all the advantages that come with being God, he chose to become human. Use the following passages to list some of the reasons this had to happen:
John 14:8,9 (to reveal himself); **Genesis 3:15** (to fulfill his promises); **Matthew 20:28** (to be our sacrifice); Both: **Galatians 4:4,5** and **Romans 5:18** (Jesus had to be human to die ransom and save all humans.)

Read **Philippians 2:9-11**

- Verse nine starts with the word “therefore.” What does this word indicate?
- Because of what Jesus did, God exalted him. What does this mean for us? (See Romans 6:3,4)

Conclusion: Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the “connecting question” above.

In groups of two or three, come up with a specific way(s) you can follow the example of Jesus’ humility.

- Be specific: **state which relationship or relationships** you are planning to imitate Christ’s humility and **how you plan to humbly serve like Christ.**)
- In your group, take turns offering a short prayer for one another. Throughout this week, pray for the person or people in your group and ask God to bless them.
- Support each other! It’s as easy as a quick text.