

Rooted in the Stories of Christ

Lesson 3: Your Invitation's in the Mail!

Objectives:

Students will:

- Identify humility as a spiritual quality exemplified in the life of Jesus
- Consider potential risks and rewards of displaying humility to those around us
- Determine ways to become more like Jesus - display humility to those around us

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Party supplies
- ☐ 3x5 cards
- ☐ Role cards
- ☐ Deck of playing cards
- ☐ Bibles

Minds On

Consider decorating your room for a party before students arrive (balloons, streamers, music, food, etc.). As students arrive, welcome them to the party, and distribute a playing card to each person. Have students form small groups of four to eight people, depending on their playing card (i.e. all suits together—hearts, diamonds, etc., or all numbers together: If you use TWO decks of cards, you can get eight Aces, Twos, Threes, etc.)

Tell students that you are going to play a survival game together. Have pre-prepared envelopes for each group. Inside each envelope you will have a set of 3x5 cards matching the number of students in each group. **Ahead of time, on each card you are going to write out a short description of the role the person with that card will take.** For example, in a set of four cards you might have the following:

- 1) 90-year old woman
- 2) 40-year old engineer
- 3) 30-year old carpenter
- 4) twelve-year old child, etc.

Hand out one card to each individual in the group and tell him/her that this is to be their role for the entire game. Now, set the stage for the students. The idea is that they are stranded in the middle of the ocean in a lifeboat and that their food is quickly running out. They see little hope for survival, so one by one each must decide whom they are going to cast “overboard” and why. A welcome home celebration is planned only for those who survive until the end. Give them a couple of minutes each time and then tell them time is up and ask each group to share who they are going to cast out and why. Groups should work together to identify the person in their “boat” most likely to survive. Men/women overboard may remain with their groups to assist in deciding who will be cast “overboard” next. Have groups narrow it down all the way to the last person. When only one person remains in each group, ask that person why they were the “survivor.” Remind students that a welcome home party is planned for at the end of the lesson for the “survivors” from each group.

Ask students: How did this activity compare with some of the current reality shows on TV? Were there any general rules or principles that were used to determine who would remain on the lifeboat and who would be cast “overboard?” What is usually true about people that “survive” in reality shows? Are the same things true about people that succeed in life? Why or why not? Generally speaking, who would you be mostly likely to spend time with: a “survivor” or a cast away? Why?

Action

Divide students into two groups (could use playing cards again: all reds vs. all blacks) and assign each group one of the following passages: Matthew 9:9-13 and Luke 14:7-14. Tell groups that they should read the Bible passage and discuss what the scenario might look like if it took place in the 21st century. Instruct students to prepare a dramatic performance of the 21st century version of their Bible passage. Once students have finished preparing, have a representative from each group read the Bible passage followed by the performance of their skit. Ask group members: How was your skit like the Bible story we read? How was it different?

Ask students: What are some words you would use to describe the Pharisees/religious people in the stories? What words would you use to describe Jesus?

Say something like: Jesus spent a lot of his time with “castaways” and the religious leaders of his day hated him for it. In Jesus’ day, a rabbi prided himself with being unapproachable. They thought of themselves as being so close to God that common people should not get too close. Jesus, however, was a different kind of rabbi. He was often seen spending time with the leper, the prostitute, the thief. Despite the fact that Jesus was God, he never thought of himself so highly that he refused to spend time with and minister to sinful, broken people.

Consolidate/Debrief:

Say something like: Jesus' life was characterized by humility. It makes sense, then, that his followers would try to display humility to those around them. (If you've already completed the lesson on humility from the "Unrooting the R.A.G.S." module, you may want to refer back to the learnings from that as well.)

Ask students: What are some of the potential risks and rewards of living more humbly with those around you? Share with a partner an activity or two that you could do this week (like letting someone go ahead of you in line at the store, not taking the credit for something you deserve credit for) where you could display humility this week? Once pairs have had a chance to discuss their ideas, ask for any volunteers who would like to share their plan with the larger group.

Pray. Make sure to include in your prayer those that shared their specific plans for displaying more humility to the people around you.

Invite the students who "survived" in the lifeboat game to serve food to the rest of the group as you conclude the evening.