

## **BEING HUMBLE AS A CHILD**

- How many of you remember being a child? (...)
- What was your favorite thing you loved doing as a child? (...)
- Did anybody in here ever go or know of someone who went to a one-room schoolhouse? (...)
- How many walked to school?
- Did any of you have old wooden school desks?
- How many of you went to Sunday School?
- How many of you swung on a rope swing from a tree?
- How many went swimming in a pond or lake?
- How many loved to catch lightning bugs/fireflies and put them in a jar?
- How many of you made your own sailboat for the streams?
- We have so many sweet childhood memories and today we are going to talk about some important things that we learned as a child.

-Before we do that, do you know Who loves children most of all in the Bible?  
(Jesus)

-One of the things we know from scripture is that Jesus loves children.  
-One of the stories about this comes from Matthew 19. It was after a long day of Jesus teaching and healing a large crowd. At the end of that day, the disciples were very tired and hoping to go home, but at that time all the mothers and fathers began pushing their children up to Jesus to have Him heal them and bless them. The disciples told them to stop! Leave Jesus alone. He needs a break! (More likely they needed a break!) But do you know what Jesus said? (In Matt. 19:14, Jesus said "Let those little children come unto me, because *theirs is the Kingdom of God.*")

-Jesus loves little children. One reason He loves them is because they are humble.  
-Little children instinctively know that they need somebody to help take care of them. But sometimes as we grow up and become adults we start thinking that we can do it by ourselves. You will actually hear people say that they don't need God in their lives. They'll say things like: "Why do I need God, I have everything I need to achieve all that I want." That is not a humble person.  
-God is looking for a childlike faith, one that does not desire authority or prestige, is free from malice, is teachable and willingly dependent upon Him.

-Jesus tries to remind His disciples of this again in another story in Matthew. The disciples came to Jesus and asked Him "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" They were probably trying to see if Moses, Elijah, Abraham or even one of them could be because of their close relationship with Him. Jesus called the little children to Him and He stood among them and reminded His disciples again saying: "I tell you the truth, unless *you change* and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child, is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."

**-How many times does it take us to realize that we can't do anything to enter the Kingdom of Heaven without a humble, childlike faith? (...)**

**-There is a joke about St. Peter standing at the gate of Heaven checking his book to see if a person can come in or not according to what they did while here on earth. A young man entered the pearly gates and St. Peter could not find his name in the Book of Life. He said, "That's strange, I cannot find your name and the good works you have done to deserve entering Heaven. Have you ever done any good works?" The man thought for a long time and then replied, "Well, I remember one time I helped an elderly lady who was getting robbed." St. Peter said "Huh. That's strange. It's not recorded here. When did this happen?" He replied sheepishly, "About 5 minutes ago?"**

**-That may be funny, but God is not checking to see our acts of goodness to decide to let us in. No matter what we do, we are never good enough to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. There is only one condition that we are going to get to be Heaven. Do you know what that is? (Through His Son Jesus.)**

**-Let's read our 1<sup>st</sup> verse together from our Verse Sheet: (John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.")**

**-This is the only way we are going to go to Heaven, by putting our trust in Jesus, because we can't be good enough! We try to, and we want to be good, but we mess up so many times.**

**-Here are some examples:**

**-How many of you have lost your patience with someone because you were tired? (...)**

**-How many of you have thought a mean thought at all? (...)**

**-How many of you have said something that wasn't nice and it came out of your mouth before you even realized what you were doing? (...)**

**-We've all been there. God knows we need help. The way He created us He already knew we were going to sin and He already made a plan to save us from those sins. And that plan is Jesus!**

**-Now, let's get back to little children because that is how God sees us, as His little children when we accept His Son, Jesus, as our Savior, hopefully humble and needing Him.**

**-Once we are His children, His Word (the Bible) teaches us how to live as His humble children here on this earth. Let's read aloud #2 on our Verse Sheet to see what we should do: (I Timothy 6:18 "Command them to *do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*")**

- What are the three things this verse tells us on how we should live as God's children? (Do good, be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share.)
- What are some ways we can do good? (...)
- What do you think it means to be *rich in good deeds*? (Having an abundance of good deeds that honors the Lord and blesses others. It's a lifestyle of doing what God asks us to do each day for others.)
- What does the last part of this verse tell us to do? (To be generous and willing to share)
- Did you learn to share when you were in school? (...)
- Did you share with your brother or sister, even if you didn't want to?
- What did it teach you? (selflessness, caring for others, etc.)
- What are some things we can share now? (money, food, our love, our friendship, prayer, time, knowledge, skills)

**-We should also share what God has given us to others. Sharing the story of the gift of God's Son, Jesus, and what He did for others is the most generous gift we can give them.**

**-Let's read #3 together on our Verse Sheet to see what else God wants us to do as His children: It was taken from Ephesians 4:32: (Ephesians 4:32 "*Be kind* and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.")**

- What are the first two words? (Be kind)
- As a child we hopefully learn not to hit but to play fair and to be kind to others, like using kind words.
- Sometimes unkind words can hurt us more than anything else. Someone can say something in the spur of the moment, not thinking how much it cuts to our hearts, and hurt our feelings. And when they hurt our feelings it can carry throughout the day.
- Have any of you ever had that happen to you? (...)
- If you live among the human race, we all can raise our hands.
- Have any of you ever said an unkind word to someone? (...)
- Again, if we are human and live among the human race, we all have probably said something unkind in the heat of a moment.
- But, if we are children of God, the good thing is His Holy Spirit convicts us to do something about it and we should, humbling our hearts as His child and making things right with that person and with God.

- What happens when you walk into a room and you see someone who looks sad but then you give them a big smile? (They usually smile back.)
- What happens when you see a little child laugh, what do you do? (You can't help but laugh with them. It's contagious.)
- So being kind is contagious. When we are kind to others, most of the time it makes them want to be kind also.

**-Another aspect of kindness is forgiveness. Even when someone else is unkind to you, do you want to strike back? (...)**

**-We have to understand forgiving frees us from the bondage of sin and anger. We need to remember Who forgave us? (God through Jesus)**

**-He doesn't hold it against you or me and we shouldn't hold it against others.**

**-Let's read #4 on our Verse Sheet to see what else God teaches us to do as His humble children: (Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.")**

**-What do you think God is saying in this verse? (Put your heart into wherever God has called you to be and whatever He has called you to do.)**

**-So if you are working at something, whether studying, working a job, taking care of things in your home or outside of your home, or even living in an unfamiliar place or elderly facility, put your heart into it, knowing that this is where God has called you for this season. Be His mouthpiece and His hands. Just think of what this world would be like if we were to do that!**

**-What if we acted like where we are at and what we are doing is really God's omniscient plan for us? Would it change the environment around us? (...)**

**-He's the One Who created it and owns it all. But if we don't value what task He has given us to do or live with, then we are not faithful for all He has done for us. But, if we do take responsibility to do our best in it, then it gives Him the honor.**

**-Let's read #5 and #6 on our Verse Sheet together:**

**#5: (Psalm 100:4 "Enter His gates with *thanksgiving* and His courts with praise; give *thanks* to Him and praise His name.")**

**#6: (Ezekiel 34:26 "I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing. I will send down showers in season; *there will be showers of blessing.*")**

**-What are we are encouraged to do here as His children? (Be thankful and enjoy our blessings!)**

**-What are blessings in our lives today? (food, shelter, family, friends, nature, etc.)**

**-God showers us with blessings everyday and we need to be thankful for them. We need to be thankful for the friends He puts into our lives. For the shelter we have. For the food we eat. For the beauty outside that we see everyday. There is so much we can be thankful for if we *choose* to.**

**-Let's read #7 on our Verse Sheet to see what else God encourages us to do as His humble child: (Psalm 24:4-5 "The one who has *clean hands and a pure heart*, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessings from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior.")**

**-What do you think it means to have clean hands and a pure heart in God's eyes?**  
(Those that truly love the Lord *purely* from their heart strive to do things that please Him. Much like when we fall in love at the beginning of a relationship, we want to please that person out of our genuine love for them. So much more when we love God *purely* from our heart, we desire to do the things that we know pleases Him just because we love Him. Not for anything in return.)

**-So, let's love Him with a pure heart and keep our hands clean from evil.**

**-The last thing we are going to talk about that God wants us to remember as His humble child is to be aware of the wonders of this world that He created. Let's read our next verse that encourages us in this, #8 on our Verse Sheet: (Genesis 1:1 and 25: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. *And God saw that it was good.*")**

**-How do you see God's creation around you? (...)**

**-Do you take time to see the trees and ignore the buildings? (...)**

**-Do you take time to see the flowers and ignore the cars? (...)**

**-Do you take time to see the clouds and ignore the hustle and bustle? (...)**

**-What was one of the first words you ever learned to spell? It's four letters and starts with an "L" and ends with a "K". Hint, you do this with your eyes? (Look)**

**-God wants us to *look* around and see all that He has made. It gives Him glory and reminds us of how wonderful and magnificent He is. He did this for us to enjoy as well!**

**-Sometimes we let life get in the way of looking around us to see His handiwork and we don't remember to say "Thank-you, Lord, for all you have created and done."**

**-Let's not let our circumstances stop us from being aware of the wonders He has created all around us.**

**-Remember, if He saw it and said that it was good, shouldn't we take time and look at it and say He is good?!**

**-As we go through our day, let us remember to come to Him as His humble child, being kind to others, putting our hearts into whatever He has called us to do, being thankful and enjoying His blessings.**

**-Let us love Him with a pure heart and love others, and most of all remembering through His creation all around us that He is God! And this same God is our Heavenly Father, lovingly guiding us to Him.**

## BEING HUMBLE AS A CHILD VERSE SHEET

1. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
2. I Timothy 6:18 “Command them to *do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*”
3. Ephesians 4:32 “*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*”
4. Colossians 3:23 “*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.*”
5. Psalm 100:4 “Enter His gates with *thanksgiving* and His courts with praise; *give thanks* to Him and praise His name.”
6. Ezekiel 34:26 “I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing. I will send down showers in season; *there will be showers of blessing.*”
7. Psalm 24:4-5 “The one who has *clean hands* and a *pure heart*, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessings from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior.”
8. Genesis 1:1 and 25 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. *And God saw that it was good.*”