



NORTHVIEW
STUDENTS
5th/6th grade

DATE(S)

November 5-6, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

What's The Big Deal? – Week 1 (Humility)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

Humility is a big deal!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Luke 18:9-14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



THE OVERVIEW

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Maze Craze"

A large group game that is video-based. Each video shows a maze and you have to decide which colored dot can make it to the middle without getting blocked. You only have 10 seconds to study the maze. After the 10 seconds is finished, students/leaders move quickly to the corresponding corner of the room that matches the color they choose (tell the students ahead of time which corner is which color). It's a process-of-elimination game; pick the right one, you're still alive...pick the wrong one and you're out! The last few people standing at the end are the winners!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

If you could have any exotic animal as a pet, what would you choose and why?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

What's The Big Deal? – Week 1 (Humility)

November 5-6, 2022

Hey everyone! Welcome to Northview Students – let's start out by asking a question that I think is going to apply to most of us in the room: have you ever done something or had something happen to you where you got humbled? Have you ever heard of that phrase before? Maybe this clip will give you a better idea of what I'm talking about

(Teacher's Note: Clip of Oregon track runner celebrating too early)

Ouch. Talk about getting humbled. That guy was trying to get the crowd to cheer for him because he thought he had won – only to allow the other guy to pass him and for him to end up on the ground devastated with a 2nd place-finish.

Now, before we pile on this guy and think, "What an idiot! How could he be so dumb and let that happen?" – let's be real...all of us have probably done something similar. We got a little too full of ourselves, we got a little too prideful, and we ended up on the receiving end of some good ol' humble pie.

(Teacher's Note: Share personal story of a time where you got humbled!)

Today, we are starting a brand new 4-week series called "What's The Big Deal?" where we are going to look at 4 words that are a really big deal – and yet, if we're being honest, we kind of get tired talking about them. Think about it...have you ever had your family tell you things like, "Think of others above yourselves" or "Do the right thing; make good choices" or "You have enough; you don't need anything else" or "Be thankful for what you have!" Most of time, I bet some of you are rolling your eyes and going, "I know! I get it. I get it." The reality is that just because we're annoyed by the topics doesn't mean they're unimportant.

So, to kick off this series, we're going to talk about humility and what it means to be humble as a Christian. As some of you know, each week we have something called a **THP (Take Home Point)** during the message so it can help us focus on the main part of the message. Since the theme of our series is "What's The Big Deal?" we are going to complete this sentence for each **Take Home Point** of this series: "_____ is a big deal." Anyone want to take a guess on our first word? (Pause) There you go – you guys are so smart. Here is our first **Take Home Point** of the series!

Humility is a big deal!

THE MESSAGE

We can probably define humility in a few different ways. One definition comes from author John Inazu who said, "Humility is recognizing the limits of what you can do or prove." Author C.S. Lewis said it this way: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less." The Old Testament tells us numerous examples of God blessing entire nations because the king or ruler showed humility before God. We also see other examples of God punishing nations because their kings or rulers didn't show humility before God.

Our goal at Northview Students is to teach you about Jesus because we believe that one encounter with Jesus can change you forever. We believe that Jesus is God and we believe the Bible is God's Word, so it's important to us to teach you about these topics (including humility) from that perspective. For this entire series, we're going to look at a book of the Old Testament called Deuteronomy (specifically chapter 8). The book of Deuteronomy is about the Israelite people under the direction of a man named Moses and how God instructed them to live so that they could show the world they were followers of the one true God.

Let's look at what God says about humility to the Israelite people in Deuteronomy 8:2-3 – *"Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."*

God allows the Israelite people to be humbled because He wanted to see how they would respond. If things didn't go their way or if life threw them a curveball, would they still follow Him? Listen, students – sometimes, humility hurts or getting humbled hurts. We make a mistake, we get overconfident and then fall on our face, we don't handle a situation correctly and then things go sideways. It's happened to all of us. However, in this passage, God is not just talking about being humbled...He goes a step further. He says, "Remember the LORD your God." Remember how I led you through the wilderness, remember how I gave you manna to eat, remember how I tested you so I could see if you would really follow me or not.

Some of you might be thinking, "That seems pretty crazy on God's part. Why would He test them just to see how they would respond? Doesn't that seem unfair or that God is trying to catch them in the act of messing up?" Well, maybe it's because God sees something in us and saw something in the Israelites that made Him wonder if they were becoming a little too independent. Think about it; God is probably right. How many of us go through life thinking, "I got this. I don't need anybody's help. I'll figure it out. Nothing bad is going to happen. I won't get caught." If I'm being honest, I have felt that way and I'm sure you have, too.

Did you notice that phrase in the verse in Deuteronomy that said, *"...man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."* This is God telling the Israelites and us, "You don't need my stuff – you just need Me." Students, I think that humility is truly getting to a place where you realize, "All I need is God. Even if I lost everything, as painful and hard as that might be, if I have God, I have everything."

THE MESSAGE

If you're watching this and you've been checked out, thinking, "Ok, I got it. I need more humility. Why are you making it such a big deal?" Think to yourself for just a moment about how you would answer this question: what areas of my life do I need more humility? Maybe for you it's realizing that you can be a little prideful. You feel like you can say anything you want, do anything you want, treat anyone the way you want – and it's no big deal. God may be challenging you to have more humility.

Maybe for you it's having a deeper dependence on God rather than yourself. Maybe for you it's humbling yourself, recognizing that something you did or said to someone else (a family member, friend, person at school) hurt them, and then going to apologize and ask for their forgiveness. Maybe it's recognizing that you can't live this life alone...or that you have to be perfect or do everything perfectly...or that it's simply not possible to live up to everyone's expectations of you. I can understand that – I think that can be a challenge for all of us.

I want to close with one last passage of Scripture before we close this message today. This comes from a parable that Jesus told in the New Testament in Luke 18:9-14. Check it out!

"To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Did you catch that? The Pharisee, which was a religious leader (the equivalent of someone who works at a church), tells God that he is so thankful that he's not like this super bad guy over here. I fast, I pray, I'm generous with my money – thank goodness I'm better than this guy. The other guy is a tax collector, who were some of the most corrupt people at this time. It says he can't even look toward heaven when he's praying – the only thing he can muster up in his prayer is to say, "God have mercy on me! I am a sinner!" Jesus then says that the tax collector was right in God's eyes, not the Pharisee. In other words, here is what Jesus was saying: God is closer to the humble bad person than the prideful good person.

Let's look at our **THP (Take Home Point)** one last time: **Humility is a big deal!** I believe following Jesus is rooted in humility. Let me ask you the same question I posed to you earlier: what area of my life do I need more humility? Give that question some thought today and talk about that with your life group, family, a friend, a student pastor, or another trusted adult. As Jesus said in that story, *"For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."*

Let's be the kinds of people who humble ourselves, depend on God, and simply realize we all need God and God is all we need. Let's pray. **(Teacher's Note: Close in prayer).**

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

*****Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.**

What was the THP today and why was it important to the message?

Have you ever had a situation happen to you where you got humbled in some way? What happened?

We heard some different definitions in of the word "humility" in Rod's message. Which one stood out to you the most? How would you definite in your own words?

Let's read two Scriptures from the message. Read each verse and then answer this question: What is God trying to teach us about humility in this passage?

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 – "Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."

Luke 18:9-14 – "To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

How will the THP help you to live differently this week?

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Game videos and/or slides
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister

