

### **Sunday school lesson: Humility, Lent week 2**

For this lesson, you will need your Easter tree with Resurrection eggs. Egg #2 has a cross inside.

Welcome to our second Sunday of Lent! Today we are going to talk about humility, as well as open our second Easter egg.

Let's read Luke 14:**7-11** When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: **8** “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. **9** If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. **10** But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. **11** For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Let's think a bit about humility. What does it mean to be a humble person? Gentle, kind, considerate of others, not proud, not focused on self

The Dictionary defines humility as “having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance.”

Jesus tells the story about a wedding feast, with the lesson that it's better not to take the best seat for yourself, and to let the host move you to a better seat. I wonder what that would look like in everyday situations?

What are proud people like? How would you describe "proud" people? Arrogant, self-centered, boastful, pretentious, even rude and impolite; pretty unpleasant!

As Jesus says, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled." What does it mean when someone "exalts" himself or herself? Saying they're better than everyone else, always right, "deserving" of the best

Christ flips that attitude on its head, saying that "those who are humble will be lifted up (exalted)"; how does that work? Does God look at our impressive accomplishments and status? What does God look at instead? God sees the heart; the lowly in God's kingdom are closer to the king!

1 Samuel 16:7 says, But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Have you ever known someone who acted like they were humble but really they were just putting on a show? We may not always be able to tell what's in a person's heart, but God always sees.

Humility is an inward attitude, a condition of the heart. People may put on an outward display of humility, but inside their hearts are proud and full of arrogance.

Jesus said that those who are “poor in spirit” would have the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:3). Being poor in spirit means that you admit you have nothing of any value of your own to bring to God. People who are poor in spirit know they can never be good enough to earn salvation. Therefore, humility is a prerequisite for the Christian. When we come to Christ as sinners, we must come in humility. Then when He offers grace and mercy, we accept it in humble gratitude and commit our lives to Him and to others.

So, in thinking about being humble towards others, that often translates into simple kindness, politeness and civility. Who taught you how to be polite?

What are some basic ways to show politeness? Always say thank you; open doors for elders; let ladies and older people take your seat; let others go first in line; don't take all the food for yourself; leave the best for someone else

This is a perfect way to talk about our next Resurrection Egg. Let's see what's inside egg number 2. (it will be a cross)

And now let's read from Philippians chapter 2:

**3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

**5** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; **7** rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

What was in our egg last week? A piece of bread which reminds us of the Last Supper

So now we come to the cross.

In Matthew 27 we read **27** Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. **28** They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, **29** and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. **30** They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. **31** After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Jesus humbled Himself by becoming a man and He endured much humiliation in His death. Surely He is worthy of our lives and our praise!

Let's close in prayer.

Now, it also happens to be St. Patrick's Day on Thursday of this week. I thought we'd have some fun and try a little St. Patrick's Day trivia!

True or False? St. Patrick was born in Ireland. False! In his autobiography, he says he was born in a town called Bannavem Taburniae, but it doesn't show up on any maps and no one today knows where it was. Most people believe he was born in a town in England. **IF HE WASN'T IRISH, HOW DID HE BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH IRISH HISTORY?**

He was kidnapped by Irish raiders at the age of 16 and sold as a slave in Ireland. He escaped at the age of 22 after having a dream sent from God in which he was told to leave Ireland. He made his way to England where he studied to become a priest and later returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary and spread the word of God for forty years.

True or False? Patrick was not St. Patrick's real name. True! His real name was thought to be Maewyn Succat and he took the name St. Patrick after becoming a priest.

True or False? We celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th because that is the day St. Patrick was born. False! That's the day he died.

True or False? Shamrocks are associated with St. Patrick's Day because St. Patrick used them to teach people about the Holy Trinity- Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

True!

True or False? The original color used to represent St. Patrick was blue. True! Over time green began to be associated with St. Patrick, though we aren't sure why. It may be because Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle, or because of the Shamrock or because of the colors of the Irish flag.

True or False? St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland. False! That story is just a myth, but it is true that there are no snakes in Ireland. Scientists say that's because during the Ice Age, it was too cold for snakes to survive there. Interestingly, there are no snakes on the islands of Madagascar and New Zealand. The myth came about because people said it symbolized St. Patrick ridding the island of paganism.

Let's close our time by reading together the prayer of St. Patrick:

May the strength of God pilot us,  
the wisdom of God instruct us,  
the hand of God protect us,  
and the Word of God direct us.



## Faithful Friends

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What does humility look like?

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## Prayer of St. Patrick

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I'M NOT  
LUCKY

