

Eighth Sunday in Kingdomtide
Humility as a Kingdom Value

Old Testament: Proverbs 11:2 (NRSV)

²When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but wisdom is with the humble.

New Testament: Mark 10:35-45 (NRSV)

The Request of James and John

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' ³⁶And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' ³⁷And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.'

³⁸But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?'

³⁹They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

General Concept: The church governs by humble service.

N/K/YE: The church likes to serve others.

ME/OE: The church likes to serve others.

Y: The church shows humility by not feeling proud, superior and inferior.

A: The church demonstrates humility by practicing servant leadership.

Exegesis of the Biblical References

Although ascribed to Solomon in the beginning of the Book of Proverbs, it is clear from later chapters that he was not the only author of the book. Proverbs was written to give "prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young" (1:4) "and to make the wise even wiser" (1:5). Its emphasis is on instructing the young and guiding them in a way of life that yields rewarding ends. Although Proverbs is a practical book dealing with the art of living, it bases its practical wisdom solidly on the fear of the Lord imbued with knowledge and lessons acquired from experience and observation on the realities and truth about life. Throughout the book, reverence for God and reliance on God are set forth as the path to life, prosperity, and security.

The two-line saying in Proverbs 11:2 clearly gives us an idea of the kind of end result that yields from two different traits. Pride will surely result to disgrace and that humility would result to wisdom. Here, the humble acknowledgment of one's worth in the face of the Giver of all that we are would result to wisdom. Indeed, humility even among the wisest and most educated and most powerful has been acknowledged as the trait that really result to true wisdom. The truly wise are the ones who remain humble before the giver and source of such gift and would never manifest any tinge of pride and arrogance before his or her own fellows right in the community.

One important emphasis in the gospel according to Mark is on discipleship wherein Jesus would usually predict His own passion and death. His disciples would then contradict Him and so He would usually follow it with either direct or lengthy discussion on discipleship.

This material in Mark 10:35-45 is part of a narrative that took place after Jesus predicted His death. Earlier, (vv. 32-34) he tells us of an occasion wherein as they journeyed to Jerusalem, Jesus predicted His eventual suffering and death and His resurrection-this was actually the third time that Jesus predicted His death. This passage, parallel to 9:33-34, deals with true greatness and both follow a prediction of Jesus' suffering and death. Both also show how spiritually undiscerning the disciples were. Verse 45 is a key verse in Mark's gospel. Jesus came to this world as a servant-indeed, the Servant-who would suffer and die for our redemption as Isaiah clearly predicted (Isaiah 52:13-53:12). The son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as ransom for many. Thus, Jesus suffered and gave his life to release us from the bondage to sin and death.

As a Church, we have been given the opportunity to humbly discern our worth as God's children and God's representative on earth. It is therefore our task to embody that humility in doing service for the rest of God's people. If we truly believe and follow Christ, then we are to embody Christ's humility in living and in doing and most of all, in serving the people whom Jesus had always cared for.

Companion Guide for the Teachers and other End-users

As a human virtue, humility shines most brightly in the context of a world that worships power. But it suffers abuse when it is perceived as a posture of subservience to the powerful. On the other hand, the kind of humility implanted by the Spirit already manifests something of the emerging kingdom of God-the taming of human powers in the service of the little ones. All power is from God, but it is used either to dominate others or to serve the lowly. Genuine humility is characteristic of those who use power to lift up the lowly and to bring down the high and mighty.

Humility is not a monopoly of those with high status but is equally a virtue of the lowly. The example of Christ who stooped to the level of a slave to be in solidarity with humankind in the state of sin is addressed to members who wanted to carry over to the church the privileges they enjoy in society. They ought to follow Christ's example cited by Paul in the Philippians. On the other hand, the declaration of Mary, the humble peasant girl whom God chose to be Jesus' mother, is directed to members whose low self-esteem hinders their full participation in the church.

Humility is a self-regard and an attitude towards others. Feelings of inferiority does not produce humility. On the contrary, people with a low self-regard tend to overcompensate by thinking of themselves too highly and projecting an arrogant air. Neither is humility condescending and patronizing towards those perceived to be inferior. Rather, it is not a particular trait that one tries to cultivate or force upon one's self. For humble persons are not self-conscious in relation to others but are focused on responding to a situation without regard to their position, status or standing in society. In other words, being humble or proud is a matter of indifference to them. Genuine humility is exemplified by Jesus who looked at his enemies in the eye and regarded children and marginalized people as natural heirs of the kingdom.

Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. describe the characters in the bible lesson that showed humility;
2. observe humble acts of the persons in the church; and
3. demonstrate how to be humble through creative activity.

II. Concept: The church likes to serve others.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), stick for limbo rock, cup filled with juice for each learner, color paper cut into pieces, string

Anticipating the next lesson: Prepare a tree and label it “Good Tree”. Make several cutouts of the following Kingdom values: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. fruit of the Holy Spirit. Attach strings for each value to enable the children to tie them to the tree.

III. Learning Experiences

A. *Opening Worship*

1. Welcome time: As the learners enter the room, greet them with a BIG SMILE.
2. Opening prayer: Lead the prayer and tell your learners to follow after you. “Dear God, thank you for the gift of life. Thank you for teaching us to obey you. We pray for your blessing and your help to enable us to serve others. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
3. Opening songs: “It’s A Great Thing to Serve the Lord”
It’s a great thing to serve the Lord (3x).
Walking in the light of God.
Walk, walk, walk in the light (3x).
Walking in the light of God.
“Serve Him”
Serve Him, serve Him.
Serve Him in the morning, Serve Him in the noontime,
Serve Him, serve Him. Serve Him when the sun goes down.

B. *Getting Ready*

1. Prepare the children to play limbo rock. Have them fall in line. Have two children facing each other hold the stick horizontally at waist level. Let each child pass through the stick without touching it. After all the children have passed successfully under the stick, bring the stick to the knee level. Tell the children to pass under the stick again. The children can crawl.
2. After the game, ask the children.
 - a. How do you feel the game?
 - b. What did you do to pass through the stick?
 - vc Why did you go down?
3. After hearing their answers, tell them that you are going to talk about one important attitude in the kingdom of God—the attitude of humility.

C. Learning Time

1. Say: "To be humble is to go down in order we can serve others. This is what Jesus wants us to do—to serve others. We will find this out in our story today."
2. Tell the story.

Jesus Taught James and John to Be Humble

(Based on Mark 10:35-45)

James and John came to Jesus to ask for a special request.

"Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

Jesus said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left hand, in your glory."

Jesus refused to grant the request of James and John. Instead, Jesus said, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

James and John answered, "Yes, we can drink."

Jesus told them, "It's true, the cup that I drink, you will drink and the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized. But I do not have the right to choose who will sit at my right hand or at my left hand. It is for them who have been prepared for it by God. Whoever wishes to be great must be your servant. The first will be the last. The Son of Man came on earth to serve, not to be served."

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss the lesson.

1. Who are the characters in the story? (Jesus, James, and John)
2. What did James and John request Jesus to do for them? (They asked Jesus to sit them one at his right hand and the other at his left hand.)
3. What did Jesus answer them? (Jesus cannot grant their request.) Why? (The seats are prepared for those people whom God chose.)
4. Do you think James and John were right in asking Jesus to be at his right hand and at his left hand? (No) Why or why not? (We are placed in a great position not because we asked for it, but because we demonstrated service for the good of others.)
5. What lesson did Jesus teach his disciples? (If we want to be great, we have to serve others.)
6. Who do you think showed humility in the story? Was it James, John, or Jesus? (It was Jesus who showed humility when he said to be great is to serve others. James and John thought highly of themselves when they asked for positions of greatness.)
7. Do you agree that Jesus wants us to be humble? Why? (Accept varied answers of the children)
8. How can we show humility at home, in school, or in church? (Whenever we serve others in need at home, in school, or in church, we show humility.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: As members of the church, how can we serve others?

F. *Applying the Biblical Truth*

1. Teach the biblical verse: "For the son of Man came not to be served but to serve...." (Mark 10:45a)
2. **For N/K:** Prepare cookies and fruit juice enough for the children. Tell the children that they are going to serve others with snacks. Before asking them to get the snacks and serve them to their classmates, let them tell who they want to serve and why. Make sure that everyone is able to serve and receive a juice. Ask those who served about how they feel when serving others. Then ask those who were served about how they feel being served. Finish the activity by asking the class to say: "**We love to serve others.**"

3. **For YE:** Distribute worksheets to each learner. Tell them to follow the directions: Study the set of jumbled letters. Rearrange the letters and write the words.

Sample: eb be

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------|
| a. e w | — — | (we) |
| b. o S n | — — — | (Son) |
| c. n a M | — — — | (Man) |
| d. t n o | — — — | (not) |
| e. e r s e v | — — — — — | (serve) |
| f. e m a c | — — — — | (came) |
| g. o l e v | — — — — | (love) |
| h. t e a r g | — — — — — | (great) |
| i. s r o h t e | — — — — — | (others) |

Tell the class to complete the following sentences using the words that they have rearranged. Then let them read each of these sentences.

- a. "For the _____ (Son) of _____ (Man) _____ (came) _____ (not) to be served but to _____ (serve)."
- b. "To be _____ (great) is to _____ (love) serving _____ (others)."
- c. "We _____ (love) to _____ (serve) _____ (others)."

G. *Closing Worship*

1. Tell the class to recite the memory verse.
2. Offering: Put a basket offering at the center and instruct the kids to bring their offering as you sing together: "We're Giving Because We Love Jesus".
3. Closing song: "Make Me a Servant"
Make me a servant, humble and meek
Lord, help me lift up those who are weak.
And may the pray'r of my heart always be
Make me a servant, make me a servant
Make me a servant today.
4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we want to grow in you. Teach us be humble by serving you and your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Middle and Older Elementary Levels

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. explain how Jesus taught His disciples about humility;
2. identify activities of the church where the members serve others humbly; and
3. demonstrate using creative activity how to be humble.

II. Concept: The church governs by humble service.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets, cutouts of grapes enough for all the children

Anticipating the next lesson: Prepare two (2) trees and label them “Good Fruit” and “Rotten Fruit”. Make several cutouts of the following Kingdom values: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control and the opposite of these fruits: selfishness, greed, self-righteousness, pride, hatred, jealousy, discord, idolatry, anger, selfish ambition, envy, foolishness.

III. Learning Experiences

A. *Opening Worship*

1. Welcome time: As the learners enter the room, greet them with a BIG SMILE.
2. Opening prayer: Lead the prayer and tell your learners to follow after you: “Dear God, thank you for the gift of life. Thank you for teaching us to obey you. We pray for your blessing and your help to enable us to serve others. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
3. Opening song: “Be Now My Vision” (HFJ # 275) first two stanzas

B. *Getting Ready*

Distribute the grape cutouts to the learners. Instruct the learners to write on the grapes that things they are good at—things that God has gifted them. After the activity and call on each one to tell something about what they have written. Tell the class to set their work aside because they will use them later.

C. *Learning Time*

1. Prepare the class to read the dialogue. Divide the class into four groups. Assign the first group as the narrator, the second group, James and John, the third group, Jesus, and the fourth, the other disciples.
2. Let the class read the dialogue.

Jesus Taught James and John To Be Humble

(Based on Mark 10:35-45)

Narrator: Long time ago, after Jesus was telling to his followers about his death, the two followers named, James and John, came to Him. They were sons of Zebedee. They had a special request to Jesus.

James and John: Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.

Jesus: What do you want me to do for you?

James and John: Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left hand, in your glory.

Jesus: You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am with?

James and John: Yes, we can drink the cup you drink and be baptized with the baptism that you have.

Jesus: Oh, it's true. The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.

Narrator: While James and John were talking this thing to Jesus, the other followers who have heard their request became angry with them. They don't like what James and John did.

Other disciples: (chattering) Why they're asking such thing from Jesus?

Narrator: When Jesus saw the other disciples, he called them together and taught them a very important lesson.

Jesus: You know those who are leaders of the Gentiles have power over them. The leaders have the power to do anything for the Gentiles. But, this is not what I want for you. What I want from you is that: "If one of you wants to be great, you must be the servant of all. The first will be the last. The Son of Man came on earth to serve and not to be served, and to give His life for all."

Narrator: Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jericho as He was teaching them about this truth.

3. Say: "Gentleness is a trait that shows humility, patience, and consideration. It is also a fruit of submission to Christ. To be gentle is to be meek because the meek will inherit the earth. Being gentle or humble is being patient in staying true to the course of Christ."
4. Tell the class to look back at the dialogue and find how humility is expressed.

D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Discuss the lesson.

1. Name and describe the characters of the story. (Call each group who represented the four characters in the dialogue and let them describe the role they played.)
2. Is the request of James and John reasonable? (James and John thought highly of themselves when they asked for positions of greatness.)
3. Did James and John show humility or gentleness? Why or why not? (Tell the class to give affirmative and negative points. Draw from the class answers like: We do our work in Christ's name and let Christ reward us. We are placed in a great position not because we asked for it, but because we demonstrated service for the good of others.)
4. Was Jesus' answer reasonable? Why or why not? (Jesus' response is reasonable because it is not Jesus who can decide on granting positions or seats like these because they are given to those who have been prepared for it by God.)
5. How did Jesus show humility in his response to James and John and the other followers there? (Jesus showed humility when he said to be great is to serve others.)
6. What do you think is the significance of being at the right hand or left hand of a person? (Such positions come with recognition. But there is more to it. These seats require responsibility, being willing and able to perform such responsibilities in accordance to God's will and purpose for us.)
7. How can we humbly serve others at home, in school, or in church? (Whenever we help others in need at home, in school, or in church, we serve with humility.)

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: Which program of the church can we participate in that requires humble service for others?

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Teach the memory verse: "For the son of Man came not to be served but to serve..." (Mark 10:45a)
2. **Both Groups:** Discuss ways by which we identify persons who are in need and be a friend to them. (Saying kind words, listening to someone who needs it, inviting friends to Sunday school, helping siblings with their assigned home chores or school work, running errands for the elderly or physically handicapped, etc.) Recall the grape cutouts that the class has set aside. Let them say how these talents can be of use when serving others.
3. **For ME:** Ask the class to write a prayer to a family member who can always remind him or her to serve his or her family.
4. **For OE:** *Washing of feet.* Prepare a basin with water and towel. Tell your learners that they are going to wash each other's feet. The teacher is going to wash first the feet of one learner. Then that learner is going to wash his/her Sunday school mate and the rest will follow. The washing of feet is good example to demonstrate in serving one another. After the activity, let the class say: "**Being meek is not being weak.**"

G. Closing Worship

1. Tell the class to recite the memory verse.
2. Offering: Put a basket offering at the center and instruct the kids to bring their offering as you sing together: "We're Giving Because We Love Jesus".
3. Closing song: "Make Me a Servant"
Make me a servant, humble and meek
Lord, help me lift up those who are weak.
And may the pray'r of my heart always be
Make me a servant, make me a servant
Make me a servant today.
4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we want to grow in you. Teach us be humble by serving you and your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Youth Level

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. retell the story about humility that Jesus taught to His disciples;
2. discuss disgrace as the effect of pride and wisdom as the effect of humility;
3. enumerate ways that can show humble acts of believers; and
4. commit to the church's programs of humble service to others.

II. Concept: The church shows humility by not feeling proud, superior and inferior.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets, printout (Proud vs. Humble)

Anticipating the next lesson: Prepare for each learner a list of all the nine Kingdom values as fruit of the Holy Spirit and the corresponding biblical references for each Kingdom value.

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: As the learners enter the room, greet them with a BIG SMILE.
2. Opening prayer: "Dear God, thank you for the gift of life. Thank you for teaching us to obey you. We pray for your blessing and your help to enable us to serve others. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Be Now My Vision" (HFJ # 275) first two stanzas

B. Getting Ready

1. Divide the class into three groups. Give each group a Bible, a hymnal or song book, strips of paper, markers or crayons. Prepare paper cutouts of nine fruits with each of the Kingdom values (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility or gentleness, self-control or discipline) written on them.
2. Flash the fruit cutouts and let each group write as many songs that they know that show the Kingdom values or words similar to it. Examples: love, lovely, loveliest; joy, joyful, joyous, jolly, enjoy, rejoice; peace, peaceful; patience, patiently; kindness, kind, kindred, kind-hearted; goodness, good, better, best, good-hearted; faithfulness, faith, faithfully; humility, humble, humbly; and self-control, discipline.
3. Assess the songs listed by each group. Count the songs and the biggest number of songs listed is declared the winner.
4. Tell the class to share how they felt as they did the exercise. Was each group proud of their work or are they humbled by what the number of songs that they have listed?

C. Learning Time

1. Let the class read in unison the two biblical references. Present the themes being expressed in the two scriptural references.
 - a. **Proverbs 11:2. God promises to resist the proud and give grace to the humble.**
 - b. **Mark 10:35-45. If we want to be great in God's kingdom, we must serve others.**
2. Form three groups. Distribute to each group a copy of any one of these short notes. Let the members talk about it and write some insights on the notes that they have received.

- a. *Pride results in disgrace and humility results in wisdom.* Pride is defined as a conceited opinion of one's qualities, talents, assets, or accomplishments that result to a feeling of superiority over others. Related verses are: Daniel 4:37; Job 40:11-12; Proverbs 6:16-17; and Psalm 39:11; 68:2. Today pride is called self-esteem or self-confidence that helps persons help solve their problems. Pride causes folly that lead to shame. Proud persons presume to be always right so they reject counsel to correct them and show disrespect for those in authority. When pride prevails in the hearts and minds of persons, they find it difficult to serve others. .

Humility leads to wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to think and act utilizing knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense, and insight. A humble person does not trust his or her own knowledge but relies on God's word. Humble persons esteem the advice of others, cheerfully accept correction, quickly confess his or her sins, and change their lives accordingly. Related biblical references are: Matthew 11:25-27; Proverbs 16:5; I Peter 5:5-6; and Luke 14:11.

Jesus Christ is the classic example of having the greatest humility and wisdom when Jesus obeyed God's will. When we abide in Christ, we will benefit from his hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3).

- b. *Wisdom, as a result of humility, should be sought for.* There are ways of finding wisdom.
- 1) Read Proverbs 8:10-11 and Proverbs 4:3-8, 17:24. Finding wisdom is a conscious effort.
 - 2) Read Proverbs 1:7, 9:10. We find wisdom from God.
 - 3) Read again Proverbs 11:2. When we are proud, we do not feel dependent on God.
 - 4) Read Proverbs 19:20. We are wise when we are willing to be transformed by God.
 - 5) Read Proverbs 18:15. To be wise is to study the word of God because we can be aware how little we know.
 - 6) Read Proverbs 13:2. We need to fellowship with each other as we live in community.
 - 7) Read 1 Corinthians 1:30. God is the road to wisdom. Listening to and studying God's word will lead us to the truth.
- c. *To be great is to serve others.* Jesus is our model of greatness because Jesus came to serve and not to be served. Everything we can do to serve others has been given to us by God.

One way to serve others is to encourage them. Saying kind words about others is a good way of building them up. Thinking about ourselves less and thinking of other people more can help us as we encourage others. Identify somebody you intend to encourage this week.

Read Mark 10:35-45 again. Discuss the request of James and John in terms of pride and humility. James and John wanted to be great in the wrong way. Discuss the response of Jesus in terms of humility, gentleness, and dependence on God. Jesus taught his followers that a person who serves others is an indicator of greatness. Focus on the concept that anyone who meets others' needs is great in the sight of God.

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

Call on each group to share their insights. Discuss these insights as they relate to humility as a Kingdom value.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How can the church show humility in its programs? (The church shows humility by not feeling proud, superior and inferior.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Present the following table excerpted from "Proud, Unbroken People and Humble, Broken People" by Nancy Leigh DeMoss.

Characteristics of Proud, Unbroken People	Characteristics of Humble, Unbroken People
1. Focus on the failure of others	1. Overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need
2. Self-righteous Have a critical, fault-finding spirit Look at own life faults through a telescope but at others with a microscope	2. Compassionate Forgiving Look for the best in others
3. Look down on others	3. Esteem all others better than self
4. Independent/self-sufficient spirit	4. Dependent spirit Recognize need for others
5. Have to prove that they're right	5. Willing to yield the right to be right
6. Desire to be served	6. Motivated to serve others
7. Driven to be recognized/appreciated	7. Sense of unworthiness Thrilled to be used at all
8. Wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked	8. Eager for others to get credit Rejoice when others are lifted up
9. Think of what they can do for God	9. Know that they have nothing to offer God
10. Feel confident in how much they know	10. Humbled by how much they have to learn

2. Tell the class to evaluate themselves using the table above. Let them answer these questions.
 - a. Which of the qualities of proud, unbroken people do you think are present in you?
 - b. Which of the qualities of humble, broken people that you need to work it out?
3. List at least three activities that can show humble acts of believers using as your reference the characteristics of humble, unbroken people.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "Be Now My Vision" (HFJ # 275) last two stanzas
3. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we want to grow in you. Teach us be humble by serving you and your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Adult Level

I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. retell the story of humility that Jesus taught to His disciples;
2. discuss disgrace as the effect of pride and wisdom as the effect of humility;
3. define servant leadership based on the story;
4. identify ways in practicing servant leadership; and
5. choose a ministry where one can serve humbly.

II. Concept: The church demonstrates humility by practicing servant leadership.

Materials: The Holy Bible (preferably NRSV), worksheets

Anticipating the next lesson: Prepare for each learner a list of all the nine Kingdom values as fruit of the Holy Spirit and the corresponding biblical references for each Kingdom value.

III. Learning Experiences

A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: As the learners enter the room, greet them with a BIG SMILE.
2. Opening prayer: "Dear God, thank you for the gift of life. Thank you for teaching us to obey you. We pray for your blessing and your help to enable us to serve others. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Be Now My Vision" (HFJ # 275) first two stanzas

B. Getting Ready

1. Prepare the class to do a relay style game. Form two teams. Set the starting and ending lines and let each team line up at the starting line. When you say, "GO", let the first student walk backward to the ending line, sit down, take off his or her shoes, and leave them there. Ask the student to go back to the starting line as the next student walks backward to the ending line and do what the first student did until all the teams finish the game.
2. When all the shoes are in the pile, let the first student walk backward to the pile of shoes and get two unmatched shoes. Repeat the procedure until all the shoes have been picked up..
3. Tell the students to locate the owners of the shoes and put them on their feet. Remind them that they cannot put on thier own shoes. When everyone has their shoes back on, ask the class two things—the hardest part of the game and the most fulfilling part of the game.

C. Learning Time

1. Let the class read in unison the two biblical references. Present the themes being expressed in the two scriptural references.
 - a. **Proverbs 11:2. God promises to resist the proud and give grace to the humble.**
 - b. **Mark 10:35-45. If we want to be great in God's kingdom, we must serve others.**
2. Form three groups. Distribute to each group a copy of any one of these short notes. Let the members talk about it and write some insights on the notes that they have received.

- a. *Pride results in disgrace and humility results in wisdom.* Pride is defined as a conceited opinion of one's qualities, talents, assets, or accomplishments that result to a feeling of superiority over others. Related verses are: Daniel 4:37; Job 40:11-12; Proverbs 6:16-17; and Psalm 39:11; 68:2. Today, pride is called self-esteem or self-confidence that helps persons help solve their problems. Pride causes folly that lead to shame. Proud persons presume to be always right so they reject counsel to correct them and show disrespect for those in authority. When pride prevails in the hearts and minds of persons, they find it difficult to serve others.

Humility leads to wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to think and act utilizing knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense, and insight. A humble person does not trust his or her own knowledge but relies on God's word. Humble persons esteem the advice of others, cheerfully accept correction, quickly confess his or her sins, and change their lives accordingly. Related biblical references are: Matthew 11:25-27; Proverbs 16:5; I Peter 5:5-6; and Luke 14:11.

Jesus Christ is the classic example of having the greatest humility and wisdom when Jesus obeyed God's will. When we abide in Christ, we will benefit from his hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3).

- b. *Wisdom, as a result of humility, should be sought for.* There are ways of finding wisdom.
- 1) Read Proverbs 8:10-11 and Proverbs 4:3-8, 17:24. Finding wisdom is a conscious effort.
 - 2) Read Proverbs 1:7, 9:10. We find wisdom from God.
 - 3) Read again Proverbs 11:2. When we are proud, we do not feel dependent on God.
 - 4) Read Proverbs 19:20. We are wise when we are willing to be transformed by God.
 - 5) Read Proverbs 18:15. To be wise is to study the word of God because we can be aware how little we know.
 - 6) Read Proverbs 13:2. We need to fellowship with each other as we live in community.
 - 7) Read 1 Corinthians 1:30. God is the road to wisdom. Listening to and studying God's word will lead us to the truth.
- c. *To be great is to serve others.* Jesus is our model of greatness because Jesus came to serve and not to be served. He was a servant-leader. Servant-leaders are motivated with the idea of serving others in accordance to God's will based on unconditional love demonstrated by Jesus, study the Scriptures regularly to guide them in their decisions, recognize and appreciate the people he or she leads, and lead a prayerful and Spirit-led life.

Read Mark 10:35-45 again. Discuss the request of James and John in terms of pride and humility. James and John wanted to be great in the wrong way. Discuss the response of Jesus in terms of humility, dependence on God, and servant leadership. Jesus taught his followers that a person who serves others is an indicator of greatness. Focus on the concept that anyone who meets others' needs is great in the sight of God.

D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time

Call on each group to share their insights. Discuss these insights as they relate to humility as a Kingdom value and on the importance of servant leadership.

E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: How can the church show humility in its programs? (The church shows humility by practicing servant leadership.)

F. Applying the Biblical Truth

1. Present the following table based on the excerpted work of James Kouzes and Barry Posner, in their book, "Credibility: How Leaders Gain and Lose It, Why People Demand It". Tell the students to study and compare the concepts of command leadership and servant-leadership.

Command-Leadership	Servant-Leadership
1. A leader's objective is to be served.	1. A leader's objective is to serve others.
2. Co-workers are seen and treated as inferiors and not usually invited to participate in decision-making or offered important information.	2. Co-workers are treated with respect as part of a team who work together to accomplish a task and make decisions with shared information.
3. Wants others to first listen to the leader.	3. Wants to listen to people before making a decision.
4. Seeks first to be understood rather than to understand.	4. Seeks first to understand then be understood.
5. Condemns others for mistakes and reluctantly accepts responsibility as a sign of weakness.	5. Values individual workers and learns from mistakes while offering praise to others.
6. Rejects constructive criticism and takes the credit for accomplishments.	6. Encourages input and feedback and shares credit for the results. Process is as important as accomplishments.
7. Does not train others to function effectively.	7. Equips and invests in others with a view to their advancement.
8. Followership is based on personality.	8. Followership is based on character.
9. Accountable only to superiors. Shuns personal evaluations as interference.	9. Accountable to the entire organization. Welcomes personal evaluations as a means to improve performance.
10. Clings to power and position.	10. Are willing to step aside for someone more qualified.

2. Ask the class to list down ways on how they can practice servant leadership especially in the church using the characteristics of humble, broken persons. Then, encourage them to identify or choose a ministry where they can serve humbly as servant-leaders.

G. Closing Worship

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "Be Now My Vision" (HFJ # 275) last two stanzas
3. Closing prayer: "Dear God, we want to grow in you. Teach us be humble by serving you and your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."