

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:4

DAY 4

What's the one job around your house that no one wants to do?

Taking the trashcan to the curb?
Cleaning the bathrooms?
Scooping out the litter box?
(Ew.)

The fact is nobody wants to do those kinds of things. But someone has to do them. And if you're the one who ends up doing them when no one else will, how does that make you feel? Frustrated. Angry. Unappreciated.

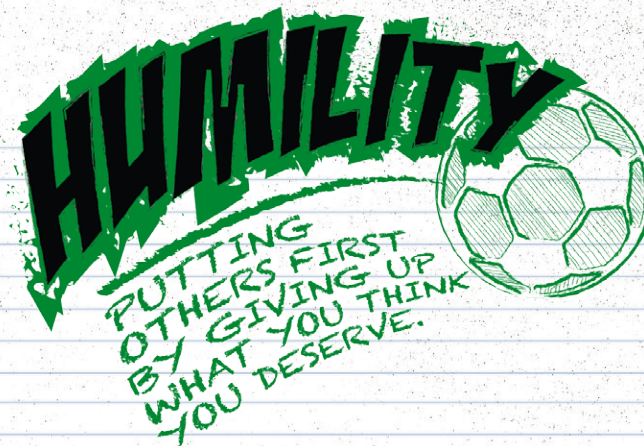
When we only think about ourselves it divides us from the people we love instead of bringing us together. But God's way is so much better! He wants us to be humble enough to look for ways to help and put others first. So don't just focus on yourself. Look out for the good of the people around you.

You can do the dirty job that no one wants to do.
You can be the first one to apologize and make things right with a friend.
You can help someone who's different from you.

DON'T WAIT! Think about that one job no one wants to do . . . and just do it!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. When you do something around the house, do you sometimes hope people will notice and you'll get the credit?
2. How is serving different?
3. When you serve and put other people first, how can that affect the way they act in return?



READ PHILIPPIANS 2:3

DAY 1

Do you think it's easy to be humble? Is it easy for you to give up your way and put other people first? Umm . . . probably not!

It's a lot easier to demand what you want. It's a lot easier to complain about what's fair. It's a lot easier to spend your time trying to make yourself look good in the eyes of other people.

But God doesn't want us to do what's easy. He wants us to be different. He wants us to be humble. Humility is putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve. And Jesus gave us the ultimate example of what humility really looks like.

Here's a great way to put humility into action. Tomorrow, see if you can spend the day asking questions and really listening to the answers. Instead of making the day about you, ask the people you meet about their lives.

You could ask . . .

- How's your day going?
- If you could eat at any restaurant, what would it be?
- What's tough in your life right now?
- What makes you the happiest?

THANK questions to show others how important they are to you.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. How would it make you feel if someone asked you those questions?
2. Do you think most people expect others to take an interest in their lives?
3. Why should following Jesus make us want to be interested in others?

WEEK ONE
4TH-5TH

READ JOHN 13:14-15

DAY 2

What if before you went to sleep tonight, you asked your brother or sister to wash your feet? HA! Can you imagine what they would do?

It's amazing to think about Jesus washing His friends' feet. It was His way of humbling Himself and *servicing* them. And it was His idea—not theirs! They couldn't believe He would want to do such a thing. He showed them—with His *actions*—how much He valued them.

Jesus was setting an example for His friends and for us. It doesn't necessarily mean that we need to go around washing each other's feet, but it does mean that Jesus wants us to serve others by putting them first. We need to follow Jesus with our actions, not just our words.

THINK of ways to put other people first. Try putting yourself in the place of a servant.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why do you think Jesus wanted to show such a clear example of serving?
2. Why did it make the disciples uncomfortable when He washed their feet?
3. Why do you think Jesus actually told His friends he was setting an example for them?

READ ROMANS 12:10

DAY 3

Soccer is a team sport. You can't do everything by yourself. Before a player can score, she needs a great set-up from her teammates. You've got to pass to win.

How about some other sports? How do the players put each other first in order to be successful?

Basketball:

Football:

Volleyball:

Cheerleading:

We need to do the same thing for the people around us. Instead of trying to take the glory for ourselves, we should serve them with humility and set them up to win.

ASK God to help you have an attitude of humility with your friends and family.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Do you naturally think about setting up your friends and family to win?
2. What is an example of setting up your friends or family to win?
3. Why is it important to pray about having a humble attitude?

1 I CAN PUT
OTHERS FIRST
BY SERVING
THEM.

READ MATTHEW 5:41

DAY 4

Have you ever heard the phrase, "Go the extra mile?" Guess where it comes from. Jesus!

When you choose humility—when you choose to put aside what you want and instead focus on serving other people—you might not always feel like it. And that's okay!

You see, there's something really powerful about doing things even when you don't feel like it. A lot of times you may not want to stop what you're doing to help someone else, but afterward, you're always glad you did. God can change your heart even in the process of you actually doing the work.

So don't just stick to the bare minimum. Jesus is challenging you to do more than what's required or expected. Make yourself available to people. Ask how they're doing. Ask how you can help. And when you discover a way that you can serve them, don't just help a little bit. Go above and beyond.

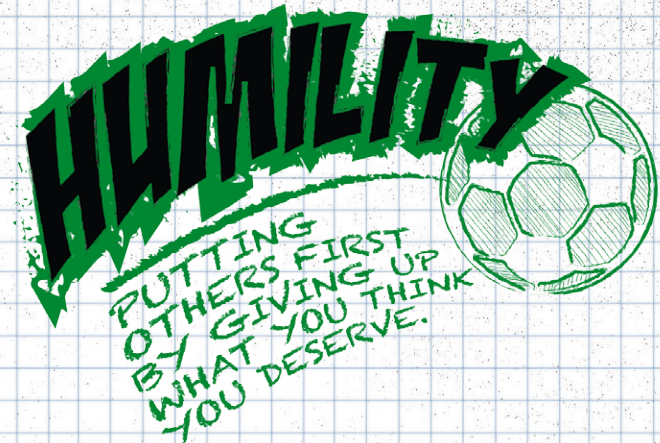
GO the extra mile!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Can you think of a time when someone went the extra mile for you?
2. Why do you think they did that?
3. Have you ever been reluctant to do something you knew you *should* do, but then you were glad you did it? Why was it so hard to get started?

2

I CAN PUT
OTHERS FIRST
BY LETTING GO
OF WHAT I WANT.



READ MATTHEW 26:39

DAY 1

Isn't it amazing that we can read these words that Jesus prayed to His Father in the garden? Jesus knew what He had come to do in this world—to die on the cross for our sins. But as He talked to God, He asked if there was any way to avoid it. Was there any other way? Was it possible for this whole awful situation to just go away?

When we have to go through something tough, we tend to feel like that, too. And in those moments that we struggle, it's comforting to know that Jesus understands how we feel. He felt it, too!

But in the end, Jesus gave up what *He* wanted for the sake of God's bigger plan. He put *us* first. He gave His life in exchange for our sin so that we could have a relationship with our perfect Heavenly Father.

Following God isn't about getting what you want. It isn't about things going your way. It's letting go of what you want because you *trust* that God has a bigger plan. It's giving up what *you* want so that you can put other people first.

THINK about how Jesus must have felt in that moment in the garden and the tough choice He was willing to make for you.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Can you think of some adults in your life who are really good about putting others first? How have you seen them do that?
2. Do you think it's easier for little kids or for someone your age to understand this idea and live it out?
3. How do you think you can set an example for your younger siblings, or for other kids who look up to you?

WEEK TWO
4TH-5TH

READ PROVERBS 11:2

DAY 2

Pretend you just won an Oscar, or a Grammy, or the Heisman Trophy. What would you say in your acceptance speech?

I'd like to thank . . .

Those speeches are great because the winners are usually downplaying what they've done, and instead giving credit to the people who helped them along the way.

But what if someone got onstage and said . . .

"Hey, thanks for noticing that I'm awesome. I worked really hard and did it all by myself. I'm glad you've all seen my talent and greatness and perfection." (Drop the mic.)

RUDE! Right? Well, if we're not careful, we can start to act like we believe that about ourselves. That's called pride. And not only is it not true because, of course, you ALWAYS have help along the way. But pride can really drive other people away. That's why this Proverb says that shame follows pride. But there's a better way!

ASK God to give you the wisdom that comes from being humble.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Can you think of any actors or singers or athletes who always seem to be promoting themselves?
2. How does that make other people feel?
3. Why is it a problem to act that way if you're also trying to represent Jesus to the world?

READ 1 PETER 3:8

DAY 3

Let's see how well you know your family. List each family member below (including yourself!) and then answer the questions about them. Add more spaces if you need to.

Family member: _____

Favorite restaurant: _____

Family member: _____

Favorite TV show: _____

Family member: _____

Favorite snack: _____

Family member: _____

Favorite sport to play: _____

Now, let's think about this. Putting each other first can actually be pretty simple. It's just a choice to let go of what you want.

For example, the next time you're trying to decide where to eat out, just let your sister pick. AND go along with it with a good attitude. If you know your brother loves to play kickball in the backyard, turn off your game system and play with him for a half hour. Maybe when your mom is paying bills in the living room you can bring her one of her favorite snacks.

DO the little things that let other people know you care about them.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Did you write a favorite for yourself? How would you feel if someone surprised you and did that for you?
2. How do you think your family members would react if you made the extra effort to put them first?
3. Should you ever expect anything in return? Why not?

READ 1 PETER 5:6

DAY 4

Have you ever been caught out in the rain without a hat or without an umbrella? The water messes up your hair, you get cold, and all your stuff gets wet. Pretty miserable, right?

When it rains, I bet the first thing you try and do is run and find somewhere dry to stand. Maybe, you find somewhere with a roof or awning to give you some shelter.

On the flip side, doesn't it feel great when the rain falls, but you're somewhere nice and warm and dry? Isn't it relaxing to hear the raindrops on the roof? It's a totally different experience, to say the least!

When you "put yourself under God's mighty hand," that means you're choosing to live under His protection. It's like you're staying warm and dry through the storms of life. The storms still happen, but you've chosen to trust God and be humble enough to follow His bigger plan.

That's what Jesus did. He trusted God's plan, because He knew He had to die on the cross for our sins. He knew His mission was to put us first. And He knew He was going to come back to life and show everyone, once and for all, that God's Big Story was true!

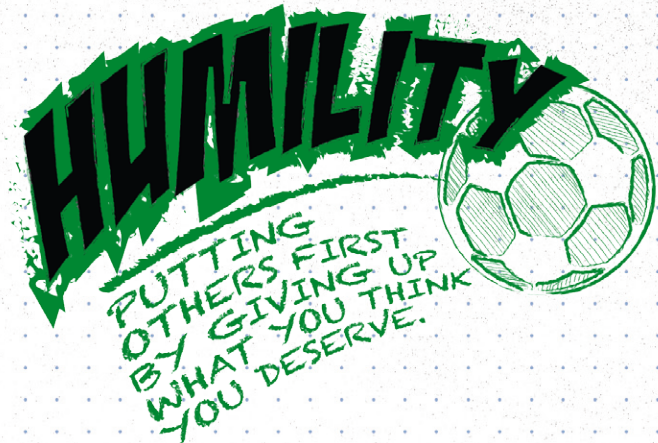
CHOOSE to trust God and stand under His protection.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What's a storm you've recently been going through or that you're going through right now?
2. What could it look like to trust God in the middle of that storm?
3. How is it an act of humility to trust God in the middle of something tough? What does that show to other people?

3

I CAN PUT
OTHERS FIRST
BECAUSE JESUS
PUT ME FIRST.



READ PHILIPPIANS 2:8

DAY 1

Being humble takes a lot of courage because being humble *costs* us something. When we put others first, that means we don't get to have things our way. We don't get to be the center of attention. We don't even get the promise of a "thank you" in return.

But you know what? When Jesus put us first, it cost Him *everything*. We can look to Jesus' example and see that He was humble enough to obey everything God asked Him to do—even when it meant going to die on the cross for the sins of the world. He gave His life because He **LOVES** us.

It was all about love. Jesus saw that there was a gap between us not-perfect people and our perfect God. We sin and our sin separates us from God. But God sent Jesus to build a bridge over the gap *for us*. When we trust in what Jesus did for us personally, we have the promise that God forgives our sins and that we can have a relationship with Him forever.

LET LOVE motivate you to put others first.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Would you say love is always the reason you follow God and live the way He wants you to live? Why or why not?
2. Why is love the ultimate motivator for us to serve others?
3. How did Jesus prove that His actions came from His great LOVE for us?

WEEK THREE
4TH-5TH

READ 1 PETER 1:8

DAY 2

Does Easter feel like a *celebration* to you? The candy is great, of course, and everyone loves to dress up and take pictures and see family. But when you think about the *reason* for Easter, the story can seem a little dark. Don't you think?

Easter only feels like a celebration when we know the full story.

Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples, the day after Jesus died. They thought it was all over. Their friend was gone! They had heard Him teach, and they had seen Him perform miracles with their own two eyes. But now it looked like everything He said about being the Son of God must not have been true after all.

So, when Jesus appeared to them and they knew He was ALIVE, it was the greatest news in the history of the world! Nothing could have surprised them more. We can look back, over 2,000 years later and see the whole picture. But for them, it was brand-new! Suddenly, they could see that Jesus was *exactly* who He said He was.

The reason we celebrate is because at Easter, Jesus rose from the dead and *proved* that it was all true! Because of what He did, we can know for *sure* that He's God's Son. We can have purpose and live for Him. And we can be filled with a glorious joy that can't be put into words.

THINK about what Jesus did at Easter and why it really is a reason to celebrate!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why do you think it's so important to our faith to know that Jesus rose from the dead?
2. Why is important for us to remember the joy that the disciples must have felt when they understood for the first time?
3. Have you been able to experience that same joy this Easter season?

READ LUKE 9:48

DAY 3

Think about your class at school. There are probably some kids who seem cooler or more popular than others. Maybe the not-as-cool kids get picked on sometimes.

(Side note: It's important for you to know that no one really feels like the "cool one." Deep down, everyone wants to fit in.)

What about on your team, or in whatever other group you're part of outside of school? Does the same thing happen there? Are there some people who seem super-popular or successful, and some who have a tougher time?

That's the way we tend to see the people around us. And the disciples did the same thing—arguing about which one of them would be the "most important person" (the VIP).

But Jesus actually turned all that upside down. He found a little kid standing nearby, and He told them that the little kid—the one who was considered least important, that no one was paying attention to—he was the most important!

SHOW love to the ones who may not seem like VIPs because Jesus sure thinks they are!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why do you think Jesus singled out a little kid to make His point? How do you think the disciples reacted?
2. In your class, or on your team, how can you make *everyone* feel like a VIP? Who do you need to reach out to?
3. Has someone ever reached out to you when you *didn't* feel like a VIP?

READ DEUTERONOMY 31:8

DAY 4

Check this out. This incredible promise comes from way back in the Old Testament. Moses was talking to Joshua, preparing Joshua to be the new leader of God's people. And he said these words in front of the people, so they could also find hope and strength in his words.

Doesn't it remind you of Jesus' words to His disciples? The message is very similar: *God is with you*. When you participate in what God is doing in the world, you *know* that God is going ahead of you and that He's right there with you as you follow Him.

We all need that reminder. It helps us to trust God and stay humble and to put others' needs above our own.

As you think through these questions, let the truth of God's words strengthen you.

What makes you feel uncertain? _____
"The Lord himself will go ahead of you."

Do you ever feel alone? _____
"He will be with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you."

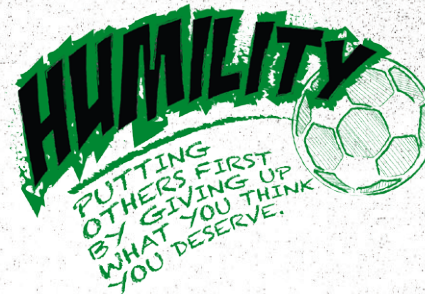
Do you feel beaten-down or discouraged? _____
"Don't be afraid. Don't lose hope."

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Moses was talking to Joshua about leading the people. Why do you think he wanted them to hear his words too?
2. Why do you think Moses' words are true for us today?
3. Why do we need a constant reminder that God is with us, and He's going before us?

4

I CAN PUT
OTHERS FIRST
BY DOING WHAT
JESUS SAID.



READ MATTHEW 28:20

DAY 1

Grab an index card or a small piece of paper. Write the last nine words of this quote from Jesus. Get creative. Use your best lettering and decorate the card however you want.

The reason we can put others first is because we can be sure about this promise from Jesus. We can "lock it in."

When the disciples knew that Jesus was alive, they probably thought that He was going to become king and take His rightful place as the ruler of the world. But that wasn't God's plan. Jesus had a whole new job for them: to tell everyone about Him, and to be like Him to the rest of the world.

And that's where we come in today! We have the same challenge from Jesus that He gave to His friends so many years ago. We can tell others what Jesus has done in our lives, and just as importantly, we can show what a difference He's made with our actions. When we put others first, we continue the tradition that started with the disciples—showing Jesus' love to the world, one person at a time. And we can do it because He's always with us!

Put your card next to anything you can lock, that you'll see all the time. It could be your bedroom door, your locker, or even the inside of your car door. Let it remind you that you can "lock in" this awesome promise from Jesus.

LET LOVE motivate you to put others first.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to use people like His friends—like us—to share the good news about Him?
2. Why do you think it's important to show what a difference Jesus has made in our lives instead of just telling people?
3. Do you think people would want to hear about Jesus if we were full of ourselves instead of humble and kind?

WEEK FOUR
4TH-5TH

READ MARK 9:35

DAY 2

What if you wore a shirts like the ones below?



What would people think?

The truth is, we can sometimes act like we're wearing one of those shirts—whether we realize it or not. We are naturally pretty selfish people. And if we're not careful, that's what others will see. That's why it's so important to choose humility.

This quote from Jesus is from Mark's account of the conversation He had with His friends, about which one of them was the most important (the VIP). Clearly, Jesus wanted them to think of ways they could serve others instead of trying to get the glory for themselves.

So, now it's your turn to design a better shirt to wear. Just take the other shirts and see if you can change the wording just a bit to fit how Jesus wants you live. Give them a super-cool design too!



THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What are some ways Jesus showed that He was the "servant of everyone?"
2. Look at the shirts you designed. Do you think you do a good job most days of living out those words?
3. How can God help you to live them out even more?

READ EPHESIANS 2:10

DAY 3

It's kind of crazy to think that God *prepared* to put us where He has us, to know who we know, and to have the opportunity to serve the people He's put in our lives.

God's plan is so much bigger than we realize. He meant for you to follow Him and live *His* way in the specific places and relationships He's given you. So let's think about that for a second. What *are* those places and relationships in your life?

God created me to be ...

Now, let's get really specific. God knew that in those relationships, there are ways you could help others, show love, and serve. Looking at your list above, what are some specific ways you think you can do that?

God created me to do ...

PRAY and ask God for the courage to follow through on some of those great ideas.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why do you think God wants you to do good works as you follow Him?
2. Was it really obvious to come up with those ways to serve others? Or did some ideas come to you after you really thought about it?
3. How can you remember to always be on the lookout to put others first?

READ PROVERBS 27:2

DAY 4

Have you ever done something you're really proud of, something really good, something that put others first . . . but no one seemed to notice?

Maybe you did something to help around the house. Maybe you defended a friend when someone was saying something mean about them. Maybe you made a great pass on the soccer field, but everyone was only talking about the person who scored the goal.

In those moments, you have a choice to make. One way is that you could draw attention to yourself to make sure everyone knows what you did. (Let's be honest, that's what you feel like doing!) You could even bring it up in a roundabout way, so that people know you did it without making it seem like you want the credit . . . even though you secretly do!

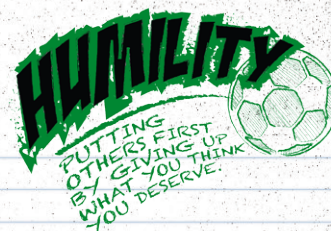
But there's another way and it's a lot more difficult. You could serve just to serve. You could serve like Jesus did, where He so often tried to keep it quiet and not call attention to Himself.

If you think about it, that kind of service is the most powerful to others. They can see that it really comes from your love for God—not from wanting attention for yourself. And if someone does see it, they'll praise you because they'll praise your commitment to Him. They'll see that it's really His goodness that drives you to live a life of humility.

DO the right thing *because* it's the right thing . . . and leave the credit up to God!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Who *always* sees our good deeds?
2. Why do you think we feel the need for other people to see them too?
3. Why do you think "serving in secret" is one of the most powerful things a Christian can do?



READ PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8

DAY 1

This month, we've read different parts of Philippians 2:3-8, including our Memory Verse. Today, go ahead and read the whole passage again. It's that good!

Have you ever seen a medal ceremony at the Olympics? The gold medalist stands at the highest place, on the center of the podium. And the silver and bronze medalists stand lower on the sides. They play the national anthem of the winning country.

Everything is about the gold medalist: the champion. The silver and bronze athletes wanted so badly to come out on top, but they have to choose humility and celebrate the one who did.

Not only that, there are plenty of people who played a part in the gold medalist's success: coaches, trainers, family and friends. They're cheering on the winner, but not getting any credit for themselves. They recognize that it's their time to put their friend first.

The truth is, sometimes things will go your way. Someone might give you a compliment on your haircut or your shoes. You might get praise from your teacher for working hard or getting a good grade on a test. You might get an award. You might get to start in center field. You might pass the audition.

But you know that's not always the case. Things *won't* go your way. And you'll have to decide if you can support the one who "wins." Maybe they achieve something you wanted for yourself. Or maybe you helped them along the way, but *they* get the attention and the credit.

CHOOSE to have an attitude of humility and put others first.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What do you need to remember when things do go your way?
2. What do you need to remember when things don't go your way?
3. What do you need to do to be truly happy for someone who gets what you want for yourself?

WEEK FIVE
4TH-5TH

READ MATTHEW 20:28

DAY 2

Grab a marker and read the verse again. Circle the words that stand out to you.

Which words did you circle? Why are they meaningful to you? Take a minute to think through your choices.

Jesus showed us the perfect example of humility. He gave up everything to come to earth and save us. If anyone deserved to get all the glory and honor, it was Jesus! But that wasn't what He was here for. He was on a rescue mission—to put aside His rights so that He could save us from the sin that separated us from God. He came to set us free.

We should have the same mindset when we interact with the people in our lives. We shouldn't expect to get our way. We shouldn't get stuck on what we think we deserve. We shouldn't expect other people to serve us. We should give up our own desires, like Jesus did, and give our lives for the benefit of others.

Picture what your day will look like tomorrow if you really followed Jesus' example—to spend your time and energy to help others.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Do you ever circle or underline words that you read in the Bible? How does it help you connect with what it says?
2. Have you ever gotten stuck thinking about what you wanted or what you deserved?
3. Do you think you might have missed out on anything while you were so focused on yourself?

5

PUT
OTHERS
FIRST.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 11:30

DAY 3

Did you know it shows a lot of strength to admit that you're weak? It's true!

One of the most powerful statements you can make is: "I can't. But HE CAN."

Sometimes we want to hide our weaknesses or our mistakes. After all, it can be embarrassing to admit that we've messed up. But our weakness is really just an opportunity to show God (and other people) how much we need Him!

Here's why this is so important. A lot of people have a story of weakness in their past. But God can take our weakness, our mistakes, and our sin and make it into something GOOD! It all starts with us admitting it to Him and being honest that we *need* His help.

And since all of us have weaknesses—since all of us mess up—we need to see how God can make us whole again. We need to see how He does that in each other's lives. It's because of *His* strength that we can find hope and healing and freedom!

Write on two small pieces of masking tape: "I can't" and "HE CAN." Put "I can't" on the bottom of the light switch in your room. Put "HE CAN" on the top.

REMEMBER that God's power can turn your weakness into an amazing story of His strength!

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Why do we have to recognize our own weakness to discover how strong God really is?
2. Why is weakness such an important part of humility?
3. How could it inspire other people to hear your story of how God has worked in your weakness?