

# Be Humble

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Matthew 23:1-12**

Church Season  
**Pentecost**

Lesson Focus  
**Serving God =  
greatness.**

Bible Memory Verse  
**The greatest among you  
will be your servant.  
Matthew 23:11**



Tear here for easy use!

### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Arrival Activity</b> Kids play a game similar to Simon Says.	Activity Pages 	Pencils
<b>Opening Conversation</b> Kids review previous week, build relationships, and learn the new Bible Memory Verse (BMV).	None	None
<b>Opening Prayer</b> Kids stretch up and down in a humble posture.	None	None

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Be Humble Story</b> Kids give the thumbs-up and thumbs-down to the Pharisees and scribes.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	None
<b>Get Your Motor Runnin'</b> Kids show off an amazing and imaginary automobile.	Leaflets	Table, chairs
<b>Phylacteries and Fringes</b> Kids play a game to learn the Bible Memory Verse.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils, coins


# Lesson At-A-Glance

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Fun Facts</b> Kids design clothes, a decoration, and/or furniture.	Leaflets	Mural paper, markers

*Tear here for easy use!*

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Closing Conversation</b> Kids review the BMV and look at the Faith on the Go! options.	Leaflets	Bracelets from Symbols of Service
<b>Closing Prayer</b> Kids crouch down and jump up to celebrate God's greatness.	Family Pages 	None



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

# Gather (10 minutes)

## Arrival Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try.

As kids arrive, start a game similar to Simon Says except that, whatever you say to do, you demonstrate doing something different. So if you say, "Simon says, 'Touch your nose,'" you could touch your ear. Kids should follow your lead if you say, "Simon says." Give different kids a chance to lead in the same way.

### Spark Resources

Activity Pages



### Supplies

Pencils

## Opening Conversation

**Who was able to try a Faith on the Go! activity this past week? Tell us what you did.** Allow some time for sharing.

**Who can tell me the Bible Memory Verse from last week?** If kids remember the BMV, invite them to recite it for the group. Guide the kids to help them remember parts they don't.

**When we played that game, were you confused when the leader said one thing and did another? How did it change the game? We played that game because in this week's story Jesus says to do what the Pharisees and scribes say, but not to do what they do. Have you ever heard the phrase, "Do as I say, not as I do?"**

Ask kids if they have any examples of this happening. Perhaps in the past week somebody did something that wasn't right but kids couldn't do anything about it and felt helpless. Or maybe they have an example of a celebrity/role model doing something along these lines. Pro athletes tend to be especially good at this sort of thing.

**It can be really frustrating when people we look up to set a bad example. The good news is that we don't serve those people, we serve God—not because we have to, but because God loves us. This week we'll learn that serving God equals greatness!**

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

None

## Opening Prayer

**Stand up and stretch your arms up as high as you can. Jesus says that the greatest will be the servant. So as we say this prayer, we'll slowly bend down until we're reaching down to our toes when we say "Amen." Let's pray.**

**Dear Jesus,**

**Teach us that greatness comes in serving you. The exalted are humbled and the humbled are exalted. In your name we pray, Amen.**

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

None

# Open the Bible (15 minutes)

## Be Humble Story

Sit in a circle and ask everyone to look up Matthew 23:1-12 on pages 1087-1088 in the Spark Bible. Before reading this story you may want to look at the definitions for phylacteries and fringes in the margins on pages 1086 and 1087. You may also want to peek at the Fun Facts on the third page of the leaflet to find out what Moses' seat is.

**We're going to take turns reading this story verse by verse. I'll start, and then we'll go around the circle. After each verse, give a thumbs-up or a thumbs-down if you think what's happening in the verse is a good thing or a bad thing.**

Begin reading. Some verses may be a little confusing—kids may disagree. If this happens, go around and ask why kids thought something was good or bad. It's okay to disagree! After reading, go back and have kids use Something I Like or Something I Don't Like stickers to put a thumbs-up or thumbs-down next to something they felt very strongly about.

**Jesus has a way of turning things upside down. Instead of being exalted, we are humbled, and being great is being a servant. The Pharisees and scribes taught good things but they didn't do them. Jesus loves us and wants us to do what we're taught, even when the teachers don't!**

Distribute leaflets. Discuss the I Wonder statements on the first page of the leaflet.

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers  
Leaflets

### Supplies

None

*Tear here for easy use!*

## Get Your Motor Runnin'

Divide into two groups. **I'm going to let each group have their dream automobile. You can choose the color, the style, what kind of stereo it has—whatever you want. Unfortunately, since none of you have your license, yet, we'll have to keep them invisible for a while. But for now let's pretend and show off our cars.** Let kids rearrange chairs or move tables to show where their cars are, and let them come up with all their car's features. After a few minutes have kids from each group ask kids from the other group questions about their cars. See who can convince the other group that their car is better. Encourage kids to mime the features of their cars, showing where the cup holders are and where the 40" plasma screen pops out of the trunk.

**Wow! Both groups have pretty amazing rides. And neither group is being very humble about it! Let's read a story about a big brother who gets really proud about his car until something humbling happens to him.**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Table  
Chairs

Distribute leaflets. Read Get Your Motor Runnin' on the first page of the leaflet.

**How would you feel if you were the younger sibling in this story? What about if you were the big brother, Ben? It's a good reminder that even the greatest among us are humbled. Let's turn the page and play a game to help us learn our memory verse.**

## Phylacteries and Fringes

Read through the instructions for Phylacteries and Fringes on the second page of the leaflet, and then explain the scoring to the group. **With each turn you get to make one line, according to the flip of the coin. The object is to make a box with four lines. Whoever makes the fourth line that closes in the box reads the Bible Memory Verse at the bottom of the page and puts their initials in the box. Each set of your initials is worth one point. But if you want to get more points, cover up the memory verse and say it from memory. If you get it right you can initial the box twice and get two points, but if you get it wrong you put an X in the box and nobody gets a point. If you flip the coin and there's no place to make the sort of line it says, skip your turn and pass the coin back to your opponent.**

Pair up kids and give each pair two pencils and a coin to flip. Since kids are working in pairs you'll have a chance to play two rounds of the game.

By the end of the second round everyone should have the memory verse down! Say the verse as a group and invite kids to put I Memorized It stickers in their Bibles.

Ask kids to find Look It Up! on the second page of the leaflet. Help them find James 2:2-4 on pages 1354-1355 in the Spark Bible. Encourage discussion.

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers  
Leaflets

### Supplies

Pencils  
Coins

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

### Fun Facts

Have volunteers read the Fun Facts on the third page of the leaflet. **These facts have to do with what church leaders wear, what we decorate our church with, and even where people sit! Let's pretend we're fashion designers. We'll call this "Project Fun Fact." Let's design an item of clothing, a decoration, or a piece of furniture that says something about what we believe.** If you have a larger group, divide it and let different groups design different things. Groups don't need to be equal sized. When kids are done, ask them to explain what they designed and what it says about their faith. Hang up the designs for everyone to see.

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Mural paper  
Markers

## Symbols of Service

Now we get to do another design. Take a look at Symbols of Service on the third page of the leaflet. This Adinkra symbol is based on the shape of ram's horns. Rams are powerful animals, but if they are going to do anything great with their horns they have to lower their heads into submission. Can you see how this looks like ram's horns coming together? It's similar to our Bible verse. If we're going to do great things for God, we must first lower ourselves and be servants.

Help kids think of other symbols of service. It may help to think of ways kids themselves serve, and base their symbols on these actions. For example, if they walk their neighbor's dog, perhaps a dog leash would be a symbol of service. They can make one symbol four times or come up with four different ideas for each of the bracelets. When the bracelet is done, cut it out, cover it with clear packing tape to laminate it, and punch out the holes. Tie a 4-inch (10-cm) piece of yarn through each hole and the bracelet is ready to tie on!

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Markers  
Clear packing tape  
Scissors  
Hole punch  
Yarn

Tear here for easy use!

## Send (5 minutes)

### Closing Conversation

**Find Faith on the Go! on the last page of the leaflet. One of our Faith on the Go! options is to share our bracelets with others. Who do you think you'll share yours with?** Look at the rest of the options and help kids choose a few to do this week. **Anytime a Faith on the Go! option is something like writing or drawing, you're always welcome to bring it in and share.**

**We learned the key to being humble today: service. Serving God equals greatness. Who can say today's memory verse?** Allow time for kids to try. **Nice job! And any time you look at your bracelet this week you'll be reminded that you are a servant too.**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Bracelets from Symbols of  
Service

### Closing Prayer

Gather in a circle and have everyone crouch down. **We're going to start low, like humble servants, and then we'll shout "Amen" together and jump up to celebrate the greatness of the one we serve, Jesus!**

**Dear Jesus,**  
**You teach us that serving God equals greatness. Thank you for being an example to us and inviting us to share in your work of serving others. In your name we pray. . . AMEN!!!**

Be sure to send a leaflet and a Family Page home with each kid.

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None