



Faith in Action

The Mindset of Christ

“And being found in the appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!” Philippians 2:8

Lesson: Composed of letter fragments written to the church in Philippi, the Apostle Paul’s epistle to the Philippians has often been dubbed “a letter of encouragement” by New Testament scholars. Here, the imprisoned Paul, soon to face death at the hands of Roman authorities, optimistically urges his fellow Christians to continue to shine the Light of Christ in the world by following Jesus’ selfless example of humble servanthood. Today as we search to find satisfaction in the fleeting pleasures of the world, Paul’s letter reminds us that true happiness comes only from the comfort of God’s love - a love that strengthens us to walk the walk of Christ, by putting the interests of others a step ahead of our own, for the sake of that same Divine love that girds us.

This week, put faith in action by...

Thanks A Lot...Really!

God may have created all people equal, but our jobs are a whole other story! Just think for a few moments about all of the heroes who invisibly touched the life of your family this week – the delivery person who brought a hot meal to your home, the masked cashier who bravely faces COVID every day so our grocery supplies aren’t interrupted, janitors, cleaning people and garbage collectors...well you get the point!

COVID-19 may have put the temporary brakes on sharing our smile in public right now, but it can’t stop the minds we share with Christ from expressing our gratitude to all those who work the thankless jobs that help make the world worth being grateful for.

So, try to inspire your disciple in training to say “thank you” to all of the working class heroes, whose services enrich our lives, by showing them what imitating Jesus looks like in action and then encourage them to humbly do the same! Then walk an extra mile with Jesus together by adding a compliment for service well done to your gratitude.

“B” More like Jesus!

Try getting in the mind and spirit of servanthood this week with this modified version of BINGO. Start by creating a Philippians 2:1-11 BINGO card for each family member that is based on one of Jesus’ traits, like compassion, forgiveness, love, graciousness, holiness, etc. Write the trait at the top of the board.

For each square, prayerfully consider a random act of kindness that you can do throughout the week that corresponds with the assigned trait (i.e. forgive someone who wronged you in the past for the forgiveness board, of course!). Fill in ALL of the squares (YES, ALL of them!). Next, display each of your family members’ boards in a place where you can see them every day like the refrigerator. Then get busy filling your card!

Every time you perform an assigned act of kindness, call it out to your family and then mark it off with a cross. It’s the only BINGO in town where EVERYONE’S a WINNER!!!

Operator, Get Me Jesus on the Line

Cell phones can do just about everything today. But did you know that, in addition to Googling and gaming, they can also help your family pray!

Every night this week, before going to bed, do a random scroll in your cell phone's address book or that of your child's and serve the person it lands through prayer before retiring for the night. Before offering prayer, discuss with your little prayer warrior what needs that person may have so that you can offer them up to God.

Imitation is the Best Form of Discipleship

So, this week pick an entire day to see which family member is best at imitating Jesus by serving each other. You don't have to move mountains by cleaning out the garage or the attic. You can start instead by doing mustard seed sized acts of kindness that make a mountain of difference. Stuff like not changing the channel that somebody's watching, loaning your hands to fold the laundry or clean the litterbox, taking out the garbage when it's not your turn, taking less time in the shower so that somebody else has enough hot water, anything and everything that puts others first like Christ for a whole 24 hours. Then reevaluate to see how long and widespread you can keep the Jesus movement going – inside your home and beyond your doors!



ACTion

So, what would Jesus *really* do??? This week is the perfect time for your family to find out...or should I say, *act* it out!?

Begin by creating at least 3 role playing card for each family member based on a potentially real life situation. Examples include, "you see a child sitting alone on your playground at recess watching everyone else play ball," "your elderly neighbor has broken her hip and lives alone," "friends are making derogatory remarks about an immigrant family that has just moved into your neighborhood," or "somebody cuts you off in the grocery line." Have each family member draw a card and give a detailed response using the mind of Christ.

Bonus points for having a Bible on hand and finding specific Gospel situations that fit your response.

Walking to Jerusalem with Jesus

Let's face it. Feet can be stinky business (and that's with 21st century commodities). Just imagine how icky they were in the sweltering desert of 1st century Palestine! And yet, Jesus humbled himself to wash at least 12 sets of them before his last supper (a job relegated to the lowliest of servants).

Oh, don't sweat it! You don't have to wash your family's feet! But you could make a rock replica by using 2 medium sized flat stones for the soles and ten pebbles for toes. Have your child place them in a strategic location outside of your front door to 'serve' as a reminder that you and your family are walking into the world as a servant of Christ's family every time you leave your home.

