



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for February 17, 2008
Released on February 13, 2008**

"Be Unselfish" (Called to be Humble)

MEMORY VERSE:

"Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:11)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Luke 14:1, 7-14

1 And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.

7 And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them.

8 When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him;

9 And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.

10 But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

11 For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that the truly important people are the people who are willing to help others by being unselfish and considerate of others.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. People who try to make themselves important are not really important at all.
2. Helping others is better than trying to get the best for oneself.
3. Trying to make others think you are important is not the way to go.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Helping to Remember, each student will need two small envelopes, crayons, and two pieces of paper-wrapped hard candy (as appropriate for each age group; use caution to avoid any choking hazard with small pieces of candy). Make a copy of the word search for each student.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

In this Bible lesson from Luke 14, Jesus calls our attention to one of fallen man's basic characteristics – his self-centeredness. A leader among the Pharisees had invited Jesus to have dinner at his house. Jesus accepted the invitation. The other invited guests and an interesting custom of the time combined to set the stage for what happened.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

1. What did Jesus see when He was invited to dinner at a Pharisees house?

The Bible tells us that Jesus watched all the other guests coming in. He watched as the other guests rushed to take the "important" seats. It was clear that they considered themselves important and wanted to get the best seats before any of the other guests.

In those days, the people who were considered important reclined at one end of the banquet table. Those of lesser importance were relegated to the other end. The Bible does not say where Jesus sat at the table, but Jesus used this opportunity to teach a better way to achieve importance.

2. What instruction did Jesus give the guests at the dinner?

Jesus used a parable to tell the guests that they should not take the best place because someone may come who is more important than you, and in shame, you may have to move to the lowest place or a less important seat. Jesus told the guests, that instead, they should take a place at the unimportant end.

Jesus instructed them to not assume that they are the most important in attendance at the dinner. Sit down in the "unimportant" seats and allow the host, if he/she desires, to come to you and move you to a better place. Everyone who is watching will know that the host thinks you are important.

3. What does it mean to be humble?

To be humble means that you are not proud or arrogant; you have a modest opinion of your own importance or rank. This is not dependent on whether your status or position is one that is higher or lower than another's. Regardless of what your position, you can be humble if you are modest despite your status or rank.

If you are humble, you will not exalt yourself but allow God or others to exalt you. Children will best understand the concept of not exalting self by such terms as being unselfish, considerate, and sharing.

4. According to Jesus' teachings, how do we become important?

In Jesus parable, he wanted to teach that the really important people are not those who try to make themselves look important. The truly important people are those willing to look unimportant and to help others.

Jesus wants his followers to know that we become important by humbling ourselves. If we exalt ourselves, then we will be abased or brought down to a lower position - just like the guest at a dinner that may be asked to give up their seat to a more important person. However, if we humble ourselves, we will be exalted – just like taking a less important seat and then have the host himself move you to a more important seat.

5. What instruction did Jesus give the person hosting the dinner?

Jesus had given instruction to the guests, but he also had a word for the hosts. A host should extend his/her hospitality to all people, not just those who were friends, relatives and neighbors – those who were likely to return the hospitality. A host should extend the hospitality to those who cannot repay or return in kind.

In Jesus' day, as in ours, a person might extend or offer charity to those considered the lowest in society, but to consider these people as equals and have dinner with them was not done. But Jesus encouraged the hosts to do just that, and they would be blessed.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

What does Jesus' story say to you? Be a servant in whatever place the Lord puts you. Instead of just trying to get the best for yourself, do what you can to help other people have what they need. That is being unselfish. And that is what Jesus calls being important. We as followers of Christ should not exalt ourselves. Let God or others do so, if they so choose.

HELPING TO REMEMBER (ACTIVITIES):

Use the following activities, or create your own, to emphasize the key points of the lesson:

Distribute the envelopes to each student. Tell the children they will have the chance to be unselfish. Have them print "One for you" on one envelope and "One for me" on the other envelope. Decorate the envelopes. Give each child two candies to put inside. Tell them to give the envelope marked "One for you" to someone else outside of the class. Please use caution and your best judgment on giving small pieces of candies to children as they may present a choking hazard; get parental permission if necessary.

Repeat the memory verse and let each child practice saying the verse.

A word search for this week's lesson is included at the end of this summary with key words from the lesson.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:11)

Trying to make others think you are important is not the way to go. People do not become important this way. That is what Jesus is telling us. Someday everyone will know that the people who help others instead of trying to look important themselves are really the important ones.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Becoming a Follower" from Luke 14:25-33 and focuses on commitment to Jesus and what this requires.

Lesson Summarized By:

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WORD SEARCH

Be Unselfish

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Find each of the following words.

DINNER

RECOMPENSE

RESURRECTION

FEAST

JESUS

SABBATH

EXALT

ABASED

WORSHIP

BLESSED

HONORABLE

UNSELFISH

BIDDEN

PHARISEES

HUMBLE

PARABLE

R R O H U A E D T O S O E A U E T A L R F S R L H N
H E I E U P I H S R O W M E A A E E O E E S H R A A
E S H U M B L E N R O T L A X E S E A F P U E X O O
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H O L B E S E S O R I O H L E B D S R S L R U N S E
E N E R E P B D D D X H O C F R S P A C E N R N N X
U H X S E A L E D A C B E N A E R B E I O L N I U E
A U P H A R I S E E S D E P L E A R N S S N L D T R
E H A P A R A B L E R B E B B E E D O A S A T P O W
E E S R S P D D N H E T B S A N E S P U I E S N N S

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH (Be Unselfish, Luke 14:1, 7-14)

R F
E P I H S R O W E R
E S H U M B L E T L A X E A E
L U S C B
B R S A B B A T H T O I H
A R S M D S
R E U P D I
O C S E E F
N T E N N D D R L
O I J S E E E E
H O E S S N S
N S A N N
E B I U
P H A R I S E E S L A D
P A R A B L E B