



PENGUINS



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Humble yourself before God.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to be humble and not give in to pride.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 20:20-28, The last will be first.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." - Matthew 4:19 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

The Emperor Penguin towers over all other penguins. Though they are the biggest and the tallest of their kind, they are flightless penguins. God doesn't want us to be prideful or consider ourselves better than we ought. Instead we should humble ourselves before God and others.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to be humble before you and others so that you may be glorified in our lives.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."
- Matthew 4:19 (NIV)

"Come. Follow me," Jesus said. "I will make you fishers of people."
- Matthew 4:19 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room in half. Pick one side to start and have them all shout the first word, then the other side shouts the second word, and so on until they finish the verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.



PENGUINS



SKIT

BIG MAN

ITEMS NEEDED:

A tuxedo, a bit of toilet paper

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M/1F

CHARACTERS:

Chet- A very prideful guy

Jillian- A nerdy girl

Chet enters, wearing a tuxedo.

CHET: That's right, ladies and gentlemen, all eyes on me. All eyes right here on the man in the \$10,000 tuxedo. All eyes on Chet the Jet. That's right, ladies, tell your friends. Make sure they see me. Make sure they know about this handsome man that you are standing so close to. And you, men. Take note- this is how you rock a tuxedo.

Jillian enters. She's in a simple dress and has nerdy glasses.

JILLIAN: Excuse me, Mister?

CHET: Go away, woman. Can't you see this is a \$10,000 tux? I can't be seen next to you.

Jillian looks at the audience, makes a face mocking Chet, and exits.

CHET: You're probably asking yourself, "Hey, I wonder if that guy drives a cool car?" As a matter of fact, I do. It's in the valet lot right now, brand new Porsche 911. And that's just one of my cars. I also own a Mercedes and a Ferrari. And oh yeah, I have a motorcycle too.

SKIT

Jillian enters.

JILLIAN: Excuse me, Mister?

CHET: Didn't I tell you to beat it? Go stand next to that guy in the cheap suit over there.

Jillian looks at the audience, makes a face mocking Chet, and exits.

CHET: I've got a nice big house with a big garage to hold all those cars too. Also got a big screen TV, a swimming pool, and an air hockey table. Yeah, didn't see that coming, did you? I love air hockey, and I love to play it in my \$200 Air Jordan sneakers.

Jillian enters.

JILLIAN: Okay, Mister, I just gotta tell you—

CHET: Not now, nerd girl. Why don't you go over there and leave me alone?

Jillian looks at the audience, makes a face mocking Chet, and exits.

CHET: Let's face it, people, I'm the best. I have a nice tux. I have nice cars. I have nice things. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, normal about me. I am the best.

Jillian enters.

JILLIAN: Mister, I'm just trying to tell you, you have some toilet paper hanging out the back of your pants.

Jillian exits. Chet turns, lets the audience see.

CHET: Oh, I am so embarrassed!



PENGUINS



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A phone with a camera

Who wants to take a selfie with me this morning?

Turn on your phone camera and take a selfie or two with all the kids or just a few.

How many of you like to take selfies? I tell you, the Internet is full of selfies. People take selfies in the bathroom, in school, in church, at the ball park, in the car, just about anywhere. People love to take selfies and they love to share them.

There's no harm in taking a selfie, but we shouldn't spend all our time taking selfies. When we keep the camera on ourselves all the time, we call that pride. Pride keeps the attention on us instead of on God, and pride keeps us from seeing the needs of others.

God wants us to turn our internal cameras outward, on Himself and on other people. God wants us to be humble. He doesn't want us to think highly of ourselves. He wants us to put ourselves last so we can serve him and serve others.

Don't be a selfie person. Be a person whose eye is on God and others. Humble yourself so God may be glorified in your life.



LARGE GROUP GAME

PENGUIN RACE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Towels and safety pins

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose five contestants for this race. Have each player stand at a starting line, and then you wrap each contestant's legs together with a towel. Secure the towel with a safety pin.

Contestants will race like penguins, waddling from the starting line to the finish. The first penguin to cross the finish line wins.

VARIATION:

If you're concerned about tripping, go without the towels and have the kids keep their heels together as they walk.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Penguins may look prideful, but they can't fly. They only waddle. We need to stay humble so that God can use us.



PENGUINS



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Humble yourself before God.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn to be humble and not give in to pride.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 20:20-28, The last will be first.

INTRO

Last week we started our penguin series with the Gentoo penguin, The Gentoo is the fastest swimmer out of all penguin species, and the third tallest. Does anyone know who the tallest is?

It's the Emperor penguin, one of the most beautiful and iconic penguin species. Emperors can grow to four feet in height! They are black and white with a yellowish chest and yellow ear patches. Emperors were featured in the movies March of the Penguins and Happy Feet. Compared to other breeds of penguin, they truly deserve their royal name.

But as beautiful and striking as Emperor penguins are, they are still penguins. They are flightless birds. They can't fly or walk; they must waddle everywhere they go, one tiny step at a time.

Many people walk around acting like the Emperor penguins of people. They are in love with themselves, and they think only about their own wants and desires. They don't think they need God, and they consider themselves better than other people. They worry about their appearance, and they love to show off their money and possessions.

But just as the Emperor penguin is just a penguin, prideful people are still people. They are sinners. They make mistakes. Sometimes those mistakes are embarrassing, and sometimes they are costly.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

There's a better way to live, and Jesus made sure his disciples knew that way. Jesus taught his disciples to consider other people more important than themselves, and he urged them to humble themselves before God.

READ MATTHEW 20:20-28

MAIN POINT

You can't fault James' and John's mom for asking Jesus the question that she did. Moms always want the best for their kids, and besides, it's very likely James and John put her up to it. But Jesus told her that her sons should aspire to be last, not first. He told her that the greatest in his kingdom would be the people who put themselves last and put others first.

These were not empty words coming from Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God. He left his throne in Heaven to come to Earth. He was born a humble birth in a stable to a poor carpenter and his wife. Later in his life, he would humble himself even more by being put to death on a cross for crimes he did not commit.

Jesus did not aspire to be first. He made himself last. He put God's will and God's plan first instead of his own, and he put us ahead of Himself.

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. He sits at God's right hand because he put himself last. We need to follow his example so that others will also know Jesus.

DRIVE IT HOME

If you watch TV and look at magazines, it's plain to see we live in a culture that encourages us to put ourselves first. We are told what to wear, how to act, and what to do so that other people will look at us and say, "That is one cool person!"

If we follow Jesus, we will take the opposite road. That doesn't mean we'll dress sloppy and leave our hair a mess, but it does mean we'll concern ourselves with God and other people.

Humbling ourselves starts with putting God first. We should spend time every day praying and reading God's Word, asking him to show us his will.

Humbling ourselves also means that we turn our attention to the people around us. Despite the smiles we see every day, people in this world are hurting. They need God, and they need God's love.

God wants us to put other people ahead of ourselves. He wants us to be willing to listen, to serve, and to be there when we are needed. When we do that, we are living the way Christ lived his life.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

We become living sacrifices, and we can be used to bring glory to God.

Emperor penguins are beautiful creatures, but they're still penguins. We'd be wise to remember that, and to remember that we are no better than anyone else ourselves. Humble yourself before God, and put other people ahead of yourself. If you do, God will use you to bring glory to his name and draw other people to Jesus.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Teach us to be humble before you and others so that you may be glorified in our lives.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



PENGUINS



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

If you could be any animal, what would it be?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Matthew 4:19

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids get up and play Simon Says.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 20:20-28

What did James' and John's mom ask Jesus?

What did Jesus tell her?

What does it mean to be last?

How did Jesus make himself last?

Why is it important to put other people first?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for the times when we put ourselves first. Help us to stay humble and to put others ahead of ourselves.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



PENGUINS



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

If you could be any animal, what would it be?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Matthew 4:19

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have the kids create a skit that shows how we can put other people ahead of ourselves.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 20:20-28

What did James' and John's mom ask Jesus?

What does it mean to be last?

How did Jesus make himself last?

How can we put Jesus first in our lives?

How can we focus on others instead of ourselves?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Forgive us for the times when we put ourselves first. Help us to stay humble and to put others ahead of ourselves.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



PENGUINS



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

True or False.

Peter's and Andrew's mother asked Jesus to seat her sons beside him in Heaven.

FALSE

Jesus said the way to become first in his kingdom was to step on everyone you could.

FALSE

Jesus humbled himself by becoming human and dying on a cross.

TRUE

We can put God first by spending time alone with him every day.

TRUE

If we put God first, we don't need to put other people ahead of ourselves.

FALSE

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: EMPEROR PENGUINS



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

The Emperor Penguin towers over all other penguins. Though they are the biggest and the tallest of their kind, they are flightless penguins. God doesn't want us to be prideful or consider ourselves better than we ought. Instead we should humble ourselves before God and others. Matthew 20:20-28, The last will be first.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Talk to your kids about what it means to put other people first. Encourage them to do that around the house, and be sure you do the same!



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did James' and John's mother ask Jesus?
- How did Jesus humble himself and make himself "last?"
- Why do we need to put God and others first?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

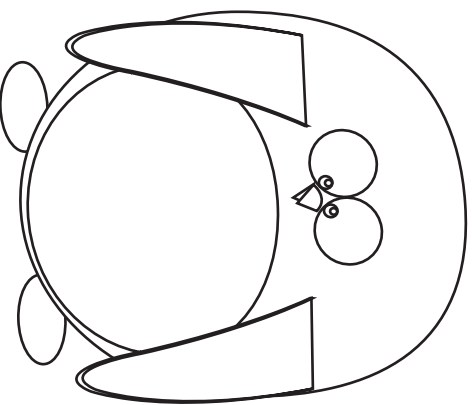
- Matthew 4:19 (NIV)



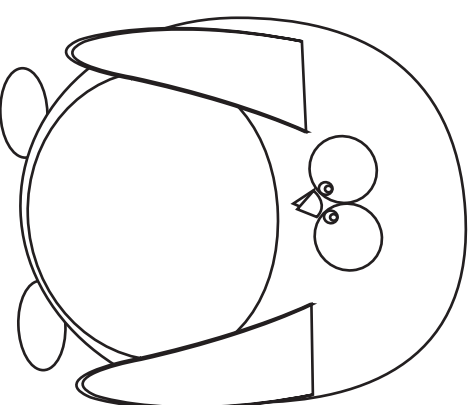
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

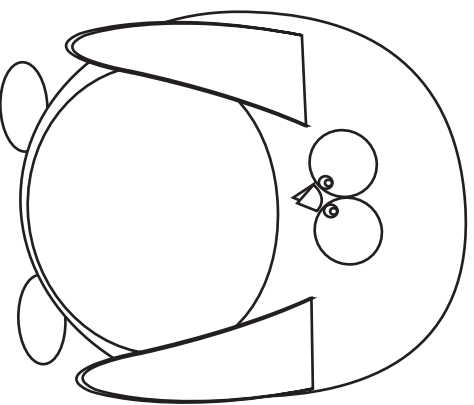
By your example, your kids will learn how they should live their lives. Ask God to help you stay humble so your kids will have a great role model.



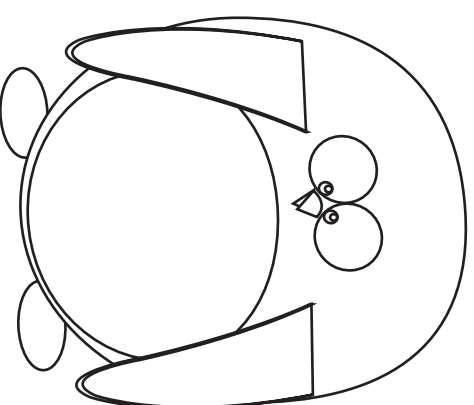
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids create penguins by cutting and gluing black, yellow, and white construction paper to a cardboard or cardstock background.