

Bible Story 4-19-2020

Last Sunday was Easter, and we celebrated the fact that Jesus came to be our Savior. He died on the cross for our sins, and then He came back to life! Jesus' life, death, and resurrection changed the way everything works—including the way we see others and the way we treat them.

The apostle Paul explained this in a letter we call the book of Philippians. Paul was writing to people in the town of Philippi who were followers of Jesus. Listen to what Paul wrote.

Open the Bible to Philippians 2:3, 5-8 (NirV) and read.

Don't do anything only to get ahead. . . . Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. . . . As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did. . . . Jesus was equal with God. But Jesus didn't take advantage of that fact. Instead, he made himself nothing. He did this by taking on the nature of a servant. . . . He appeared as a man. He was humble and obeyed God completely. He did this even though it led to his death.

I know that's a lot to take in at once, so let's break it down a little bit.

We are all made in the image of God.

Then there's Jesus. God's Son. The King of Kings.

Jesus changed everything when He came. He turned things upside down. Jesus is equal with God, but He didn't use that fact to get whatever He wanted. Instead, He chose to be humble. He obeyed God completely, even though it meant He had to die on the cross.

We can see how Jesus put US first. He died on the cross for our sins so we could have a relationship with God that will last forever. Now our job is to follow His example.

Remember what Paul wrote: Open the Bible to Philippians 2:5 (NirV) and read.

As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did.

We can choose to put others first because JESUS put us first.

We can choose to value them and think about what **THEY** need—not just what **WE** need.

What are some ways we can put others first?

Examples: Let your sibling pick the movie or restaurant. Let someone else have the last piece of pizza. Do chores for your parent without being asked. Make your sibling's bed or clean their room. Help pick up after a church event.

These are all great examples of putting others first.

When we all show humility, we serve each other.
We treat each other the way we want to be treated. And **EVERYONE** feels valued.
Everyone gets taken care of!

But all of this is only possible because Jesus put US first.

We should follow Jesus' example and put others first, because He put US first.

As Paul wrote:

Open the Bible to Philippians 2:3 (NIrV) and read.

Don't do anything only to get ahead. . . . Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.

It's not easy to humble ourselves to serve others. If we're honest, it's a lot easier for us to ignore the people around us who need help. But God can help us serve others with humility—like Jesus did.

Remember: Put others first because Jesus put you first.

PRAYER

Dear God,

We're so thankful that Jesus showed us what it looks like to live with humility. He put US first when He chose to follow Your plan. Please help us follow His example with the way we treat people this week. We know we need Your help to do that. Please give us the strength to put others first because Jesus put us first.

We love You,

we pray these things in Jesus' name,

Amen

God created a perfect world, but unfortunately, Adam and Even disobeyed Him. They chose to sin. We have ALL sinned, and sin breaks our relationship with God. It separates us from Him. But God had a plan to save us. That meant Jesus had to give up everything to come to earth and save us. And that's exactly what He did!

After Jesus' death and resurrection, people talked about what He did. He was full of humility. This was what people remembered about Jesus—how He gave up everything for us.

As we live our lives and interact with the people around us, we need to remember what Jesus did. That will encourage us to do the same for others as we choose to put them first . . .

. . . and show that we value THEM more than ourselves.

Remember this: Put others first because Jesus put you first