



WEEK THREE

SERVANT PRINCIPLE • PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8



ASK THIS:

WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM PUTTING OTHERS FIRST?



REMEMBER THIS:

“Don’t do anything only to get ahead. Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:3, NIV



DO THIS:



Jesus humbly gave up His life for us. But for most of us, showing humility will look different. It looks like playing with a younger sibling or allowing others to use your stuff. Share two ways you could put others first this week. Ask God to give you the power to let go of some things you think you deserve in order to put others first.

HUMILITY:

PUTTING OTHERS FIRST BY GIVING UP WHAT YOU THINK YOU DESERVE

## HUMILITY WINS

By Mike Jeffries

Anyone who ever played for UCLA Basketball Coach John Wooden, one of the greatest coaches of all time, knew that he was more about building character than he was about winning basketball games—although he did both pretty well. His teams won ten championships during a 12-year period, the final one in his last year of coaching in 1975.

He was famous for his “pyramid of success,” fifteen different elements like “competitive greatness” and “teamwork.” But Wooden said one quality was more important than all the rest and made the rest possible: unselfish humility. Wooden would tell his players: “Talent is God-given. Be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful.”

Be humble. Be grateful. Be careful. Sounds like he had the balance between ego and humility down pretty well.

David Marcum and Steven Smith, in their book *Egonomics*, echo Wooden’s sentiment that unselfish humility is the foundational quality for every other step to success. In their book they state, “As a trait, humility is the point of equilibrium between too much ego and not enough.” It’s the proper tension between a discouragingly low self-esteem and exceedingly high self-confidence.

In a book written for the business world, they make a good point: “As an indispensable trait of great leadership,

humility must make its way past the pulpit of Sunday sermons and into the cubicles and boardrooms. Humility should be our first reflex.”

Of course, on our children’s playgrounds, humility looks a lot different than it does in a workplace, a church, or even a college basketball court. As we explore this idea of humility with our kids, we show them humility doesn’t mean getting stepped on or kicked around, or looking down on themselves. “Humility is not the equivalent of being weak, ignored, indifferent, boring, or a pushover,” according to the book. “Humility must include confidence, ambition, and willpower.”

That’s why we’ve chosen to define humility as “putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.” That’s a scenario every kid can imagine. And it comes right out of the Bible: **Don’t do anything only to get ahead. Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.** (*Philippians 2:3, NIV*).

Coach Wooden described it this way: “Don’t try to be better than someone else. Always try to be the best you can be.”

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