

A Character study:

# Humility

(vs. Shifting Blame / Making Excuses)

“And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

*2 Timothy 3:15-17*

This character study is designed to illustrate this character trait using verses, stories, consequences of sin and blessings of obedience found through out the Bible.

Each day you will learn a verse, read a story where this sin is illustrated, then discuss the consequences of this sin followed up by the blessings of obedience. I encourage discussion with your children on ways they can help one another to stay free from this sin.

*Resources:* This study was created using references from the Bible and the book “For Instruction in Righteousness” by Pam Forster

# Humility

This is an essential problem to deal with. Making excuses for our actions is dishonest and self-deceptive. It's important for us to examine ourselves against God's standard.

## Memory Verse:

**Proverbs 28:13** Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper,  
but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

## Day 1

**What does Humility mean?** Humility is the quality of being humble: modest, not proud, doing something out of the goodness of your heart, not for yourself

**What does shifting blame mean?** To hold others responsible for your actions.

**Have you ever shifted blame before?** (ie: Blaming a sibling after hitting them because, after all, they hit you first!)

### **Story:**

*Genesis 2:1-3:11* Story of Adam and Eve and the Serpent

### **Blessings of Obedience:**

Both Adam and Eve chose to disobey God here, but what do you think would have happened had they not eaten the fruit?

How was life in the Garden before they sinned?

### **Consequences of sin:**

*Genesis 3:12-13* Adam and Eve both blamed someone else for their actions.

*Genesis 3:8-10* Adam and Eve tried to cover their sin

*Genesis 3:23* Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden

### **Questions:**

1. Can we hid our sin from God? (*Num 32:23* you may be sure that your sin will find you out. )
2. Who received consequences in this situation?
3. So did it benefit Adam or Eve to try and blame another for their actions?
4. Do you think Adam was responsible for his actions?
5. Was Eve responsible for her actions?
6. How does the Bible tell us to handle our own sin?

*James 5:16* Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

*1 John 1:9* If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**Challenge:** Be honest, do not blame your siblings when you are responsible.

### **Week Long Activity: "Snaps for Others"**

It's easy to become prideful when we think we are better than others. This week we are going to make a habit of praising and acknowledging others. If you have multiple children, you can do this easily by practicing building each other up for something they are good at. Have each child take a turn praising each sibling for something they did well that day. If you only have one child, encourage them to build up his friends. Sit in a circle and go around each saying something kind about another. Snap fingers after each compliment and say "Snaps for (name)".

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## Day 2

### **Story:**

*1 Samuel 15:1-23* Saul blamed the people for his actions, he lost his leadership and his kingdom.

### **Blessings of Obedience:**

*1 Samuel 15:30* Saul replied ““I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God.” <sup>31</sup> So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD. *(Notice that Saul repented, but still received consequences for his sin)*

### **Consequences of sin:**

*1 Samuel 15: 26* But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!”

### **Questions:**

1. Did Saul gain anything from blaming the men for his disobedience?
2. How do you think our shifting blame to others affects them?
3. How does shifting blame affect your relationship with God?

**Challenge:** Be honest and confess your sins, do not blame your siblings when you are responsible.

**Activity** “Snaps for Others”

## Day 3

### **Story:**

*Genesis 25:19-34 & Gen 27* Esau gives his birthright to Jacob, then later blames Jacob for his foolish action in giving up his birthright.

### **Blessings of obedience:**

What do you think would have happened if Esau had not sold his birthright?  
How did his actions affect his family?

### **Consequences of sin:**

*Genesis 27:36* Esau said, “Isn’t he rightly named Jacob ? This is the second time he has taken advantage of me: He took my birthright, and now he’s taken my blessing!” Then he asked, “Haven’t you reserved any blessing for me?”

*Genesis 27:41* Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

### **Questions:**

1. Why did Esau give his birthright to Jacob?
2. Did he get his birthright back after blaming Jacob for his actions?
3. What did Esau’s grudge against Jacob lead to?
4. So far in our study has there been anything positive that has come from blaming another person for your own actions?

**Challenge:** Be honest and confess your sins, do not blame your siblings when you are responsible. **Activity** “Snaps for Others”

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## Day 4

### **Story:**

Exodus 32:1-24 Aaron took what the people gave him and made a golden calf, then blamed the people.

### **Blessings of Obedience:**

Exodus 32:29 Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

### **Consequences of sin:**

Exodus 32:33-35 The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. <sup>34</sup> Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin." And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

### **Questions:**

1. Did Aaron receive a consequence for his actions?
2. Was the Lord merciful for those who repented?

**Challenge:** Be honest and confess your sins, do not blame your siblings when you are responsible.

**Activity** "Snaps for Others"

**Humility Card:** Add the humility apple to your character tree! *(If you haven't already, put up a tree using brown and green construction paper. Each week you will add a new apple to the tree)*

## Review Questions:

1. How does shifting blame affect others?
2. How would our honesty in sin affect others?
3. How does shifting blame affect our relationship with God and with our parents?
4. Will we receive consequences for our actions?
5. Might they be less severe than if we'd blamed someone else?
6. Will our sins find us out?

## Application:

1. What does humility look like in our home?
2. How can we practice humility and taking responsibility for our actions?

## Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Please help me to have a heart of humility. I ask that you would give me the strength to be honest in all circumstances so that I can glorify You. I thank you and praise you for all you've done for me. Amen.



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## Additional Verses:

Proverbs 21:2 "Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts."

Proverbs 16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.

Genesis 27:36 Esau blamed Jacob for his foolish action in giving up his birthright.

Romans 2:1-3 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

Luke 6:37 Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;

Proverbs 30:12 There is a generation that is pure in its eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness.

Exodus 32:1-24 Aaron took what the people gave him and made a golden calf, then blamed the people.

Proverbs 19:3 The foolishness of a man twists his way and his heart frets against the Lord.

Psalms 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And You forgave the guilt of my sin.

Proverbs 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Proverbs 12:15 "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.

Matt 7:1-5 We be come hypocrites, first encourage your child to confess his own sin. We are not to judge others.

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