

All Puffed Up Elementary Lesson

Theme:

Do not think you are better than others.

Scripture: “Everyone who makes himself great will be made humble. But the person who makes himself humble will be made great.” Luke 14:11 (ICB)

You’ll Need:

- Bible
- 1 balloon
- Permanent marker
- Flat thumbtack
- Clear tape

Get Ready: A balloon with a face drawn on it. Since the balloon needs to burst at just the right moment, tape a flat thumbtack to the inside of one of your fingers with clear tape so it can't be seen. Then you can prick the balloon when you want it to burst.

The Sermon:

Say: This morning I have a balloon with me. A balloon is a simple toy, but it brings a lot of pleasure to people of all ages. There are so many things you can do with a balloon.

Ask: What do you like to do with a balloon?

Say: You can use balloons for decorations at a party or you can bat them around in the air like a ball. If you have a long, skinny balloon, you can even make it into the shape of an animal. Yes, a balloon can bring a lot of happiness, but it can bring sadness and disappointment too. If a child’s balloon pops, the child may cry.

Say: **You and I are sometimes like a balloon.** (Show kids the balloon.) **We sometimes get all puffed up and think we're better than other people.** (Start blowing up the balloon.)

By the time you say the following things, the balloon should be as big as possible. Say: **Sometimes we may think we're better than other people and we expect everyone else to think so too.** (Blow.) **Maybe we think we're smarter than the other kids in our class** (Blow). **Or maybe we think no one is as good as us in sports** (Blow). **Or perhaps we think we are a better singer than anyone** (Blow). **Sooner or later, if we keep getting puffed up by thinking we're better than others, something will happen to burst our balloon.** (Prick the balloon so it deflates or pops.)

By the time you say the following things, the balloon should be as big as possible. Say: **Sometimes we may think we're better than all the other people and we expect everyone else to think so too.** (Blow.) **Maybe we think we're the smartest person in our class and no one else is smart** (Blow). **Or maybe we think we are the best person in sports and no one else is as good** (Blow). **Or perhaps we think we are the best singer and no one else can sing all** (Blow). **Sooner or later, if we keep getting puffed up by thinking we're better than others, something will happen to burst our balloon.** (Prick the balloon so it deflates or pops.)

Read the Scripture: **"Everyone who makes himself great will be made humble. But the person who makes himself humble will be made great."** Luke 14:11 (ICB)

Say: **The Bible teaches us not to be too proud and think we're better than other people. Jesus says we are to be humble and realize that when we are good at something, it is because of God's strength in us.**

Say: **From now on, when you see a balloon, I hope it will remind you that we should not become too puffed up and think we're better than other people.**

Pray: **Jesus, help us be humble and not think we are better than other people. Remind us that whatever abilities we have are a gift from you and that you are the one who deserves the praise! You are the great one! Amen.**

Interactive Scripture Reading: Luke 14:1-11

Don't Think You're Better Than Others

You'll Need:

- Table and chairs that represent a pretend place for dinner
- Bible

Say: Let's think of people who we would be really excited to come to our house.

Maybe it's someone in your favorite TV show. Maybe it's a sports hero. I know I would be really excited if this person came to my house. Tell your person and why.

Ask: What would you do if that person came to have dinner at your house?

Show kids the table or area where they'll have the dinner. Reserve the most important chair for your honored guest.

Ask: If that person came to your house and sat here for dinner, show me where you would want to sit.

Have kids sit and explain why they chose to sit there. Then have kids stay where they're seated.

Say: Jesus loved to eat with his friends. Luke tells us in the Bible that Jesus went to a dinner at a Pharisee's house. I'd like you to help me bring the Bible to life for this dinner. Let's pretend that we're there with Jesus.

Read: On a Sabbath day, Jesus went to the home of a leading Pharisee to eat with him. The people there were all watching Jesus very closely. (verse 1)

Say: Let's pretend that we're watching Jesus come in the door. He walks in the door and sits right here in the place of honor.

Read: Then Jesus noticed that some of the guests were choosing the best places to sit. So Jesus told this story: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, don't take the most important seat. The host may have invited someone more important than you." (verse 7-8)

Ask: Where are the most important seats at our table? Why are these the most important seats? Where are the seats that aren't as important? Why are these less important seats?

Say: Jesus then said, "And if you are sitting in the most important seat, the host will come to you and say, 'Give this man your seat.' Then you will begin to move down to the last place. (verse 9)

Have all the kids change seats.

Say: Jesus then said: "And you will be very embarrassed." (verse 9)

Ask: Why do you think this would be embarrassing for people?

Tell a story about a time you were embarrassed. Then ask kids to share about times they were embarrassed.

Say: It doesn't feel good to be embarrassed, does it? Jesus then said, "So when you are invited, go sit in a seat that is not important. Then the host will come to

you and say, 'Friend, move up here to a more important place!' Then all the other guests will respect you." (verse 10)

Here's the verse that shows us why Jesus told this story to the dinner guests.

"Everyone who makes himself great will be made humble. But the person who makes himself humble will be made great." (verse 11)

Say: To be humble means that we don't think we are better than other people.

Ask: What are some things people do when they think they're better than others?

What are some things people do when they're being humble and they don't think they're better than others?

Say: Jesus wants us to know that we will honor God if we do not think we are better than others.

Balloon Memory Verse

You'll Need:

- chalkboard, white board or poster board
- something to write with
- eraser

Draw balloons on the chalkboard and let the children fill in a word on each balloon from the Bible verse. Make sure you write the verse in correct order.

Once all the balloons are filled in, erase one word at a time and have children recite the Bible verse, filling in the missing words.

Bible Game: Reverse Musical Chairs

You'll Need:

- A chair for every child
- A way to play music as you stop and start it

Place one chair in the center of the room and tell children that they will play Reverse Musical Chairs. Start the music while children walk in a circle around the chair, then stop the music. When the music stops, children will race to sit in the chair.

Add two more chairs to the game. Then play again with everyone walking around the chairs. Keep playing until everyone is sitting in a chair.

Say: This game was not as much fun when only a few people got a chair. Sometimes we can feel left out when we think some people are better at things than us. But the truth is that we all have gifts from God. They are just different gifts. There is room for all of us and our gifts.

Ask: What are some things that God has blessed you with that you are really good at?

Say: We can thank God for all those things because they come from Him. And we don't have to think we are better than others because we all have different gifts from God. We are all good at something; we don't have to think we are better than others.

Gifts From God

You'll Need:

- “Gifts From God” sheet for every child
- Crayons or markers

Give each child a “Gifts From God” sheet.

Say: **God loves you and has given you gifts or talents. For example, maybe God has given you a drawing gift or a singing gift or a sharing gift. Each of you has many gifts. Let’s write or draw in this gift box all the gifts that God has given you.**

As children create, walk around and prompt them with ideas for gifts if they can’t think of any. If kids know each other well, have them name gifts for one another also.

After kids are finished, have them take turns telling about their gifts with the entire group.

Thanks to God

You’ll Need:

- Completed “Gifts From God” sheets
- Crayons or markers

Ask: **When someone gives you a gift, what do you usually say to that person?**

Say: **Let’s say thanks to God by writing words or drawing pictures in the balloons on your “Gifts From God” sheet. For example, you can write “Thanks, God” or “You Are Awesome, God.” You may even want to draw a smiley face or clapping hands.**

After kids are finished with their balloons, bring them together and use what they’ve written or drawn for a time of thanks to God.

Have kids stand in a circle. Begin the prayer and then go around the circle for kids to read things from their balloons as a prayer of thanks to God.

Afterward, say: **We do not need to think that we are better than others because all of our gifts come from God.**

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- Song: "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" - Traditional

[Sheet Music \(PDF\)](#)

[Accompaniment \(MP3\)](#) Right click and save to your computer.

- Song: "Praise Him! Praise Him!" - Traditional

[Sheet Music \(PDF\)](#)

[Accompaniment \(MP3\)](#) Right click and save to your computer.

Say: **God has given us so many wonderful gifts, let's sing to God and tell Him thank you for those gifts.**

Lead children in singing "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" and "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Balloon Snacks

You'll need:

- E.L. Fudge cookies (chocolate and vanilla)
- Licorice shoelaces
- Green grapes (cut in half from top to bottom)
- Red grapes (cut in half from top to bottom)
- Scissors
- Paper plates

Each child will need:

- 1 paper plate

- 1 cookie
- 1 strand of licorice shoelace (they can cut it up)
- 12 grape halves

Tell kids they're going to make a yummy snack using their talents. Show them a finished snack, and let them be creative in the way they make their snack. Then let them eat the snack and enjoy!

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

[All Puffed Up Coloring Page](#)

[All Puffed Up Decoder](#)

[All Puffed Up Word Shape](#)

All Puffed Up Word Search

