

# SPARK SUNDAY SCHOOL

ACTIVATE FAITH

## UPPER ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION



Jesus Teaches: Be Humble

Lesson Focus: **What you do is important!**

Scripture Reference: **Matthew 23: 1-12**

Spark Story Bible Pg. 310

### GATHER

**Check In** with your High & Low for today/this week.

**Question:** Have you ever heard the phrase, “Do as I say, not as I do?” Any examples of this happening? Maybe you can think of an example of a celebrity/role model doing something along these lines. **It can be really**

**frustrating when people we look up to set a bad example. The good news is that we don’t serve those people, we serve God—not because we have to, but because God loves us. This week we’ll learn that serving God is what is that our actions are important.**

### STORY

Dear Jesus, Teach us that greatness comes in serving you. The exalted are humbled and the humbled are exalted. In your name we pray, Amen.

Look up **Matthew 23:1-12 in the NRSV** and listen along on our website.

Or turn to **page 310** in the **Spark Story Bible**. *If you are reading from the NRSV, you may want to look at the definitions for phylacteries and fringes. You may also want to peek at the Fun Facts on the third page of the leaflet to find out what Moses’ seat is.* **Jesus has a way of turning things upside down. Instead of being exalted, we are humbled, and being great is being a servant. The Pharisees and scribes taught good things but they didn’t do them. Jesus loves us and wants us to do what we’re taught, even when the teachers don’t!**

### RESPOND

Check out the **Symbols of Service** activity in your **leaflet** and **think** of a **symbol** to **represent being humble** in our life and **draw it**. The Adinkra symbol is based on the shape of ram’s horns. Rams are powerful animals, but if they

are going to do anything great with their horns they have to lower their heads into submission. Can you see how this looks like ram’s horns coming together?

It’s similar to our Bible verse. **If we’re going to do great things for God, we must first lower ourselves & be servants**



Shoe Writing

**Shoe Writing:** By following these instructions, you’ll be able to make a mark on the outside that carries the message of Jesus, and then you can carry that message everywhere. First, take a pair of shoes that you wear regularly that have rubber soles (nothing fancy– and get permission to use). Next, write the words **LOVE GOD** on one shoe in BIG letters, using the markers your adult provides. Then, on the other shoe, write **LOVE YOU**.

# MEMORY VERSE

Look up **Matthew 23:11** This is our Memory Verse for today.

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The greatest among you will be your servant.

## SEND

### Responding to God's Word

*These are ways God uses us to come back for others!  
Sometimes the best way to come back is to go out!*

To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to:

- \_\_\_ Pick four kind things you can do this week without anyone finding out who did them.
- \_\_\_ Paint a water color of what it looks like for the humble to be exalted.
- \_\_\_ Find three people to share friendship bracelets with.
- \_\_\_ Tell You that You're Special
- \_\_\_ Pick up my toys
- \_\_\_ Use a magnifying glass
- \_\_\_ Write out the Memory Verse & doodle around it in your Faith Formation Journal
- \_\_\_ Write out the Memory Verse and place it somewhere you will see it often
- \_\_\_ Give you a big hug!
- \_\_\_ Invite you to worship with you (outside or online) or invite them to Sunday School with you
- \_\_\_ Pray for \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Say "I'm sorry"
- \_\_\_ Read this story again in my Bible      \_\_\_ My own idea: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAY

**Dear Jesus, you keep coming back for us.  
Now teach us to go out for others! Amen!**