READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Be Humble

from Matthew 23:1-12.



God notices what we're like on the inside, not just what we pretend to be on the outside.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Showoff
- Special
- Humble
- Brag

Look at Matthew 23:5. In this verse, Jesus points out that some of the rabbis make their phy-lacteries broad and their fringes long. What in the world was a phylactery? Phylacter-ies were leather cases that the rabbis wore. Inside were strips of cloth with words from Deuteronomy written on them. Tradition didn't prescribe a certain size for the phylacteries, so rabbis could make them broad to be noticed.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 346-347

Spark Bible page 1083

Family Prayer

Humble God, Thank you that we don't have to show off at home. Help us to be kind to one another. Help us to say to each other, "How can I help?" Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

1. Does Jesus want us to be showoffs? Why not? Demonstrate how it looks to show off, and how it looks to not show off.

2. Who gets noticed at school? Why? Who needs to get noticed at school? Tell your family how you feel when no one at school notices you. How can we remember that God notices us?

3. How can we help someone else today, like Jesus taught us to do? Jesus healed people and fed people. He walked with people and told people about God. Brainstorm ideas based on Jesus' model. For example, read a children's bible to a younger brother or sister or make a meal for the family.

4. Jesus reminded us that what makes us special is the way we share love. Talk to each other about times when you've noticed one another's special ways of being kind.

Eye Spark

For one day, change places at the table for each meal, so that each person gets to sit in the place of honor and the attention gets spread around.

Ear Spark

What calls do birds and animals make when they want to get noticed? Do your best birdcall imitations.

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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Jesus reminds us in the story to be quiet but faithful. Write the names of your family members on small pieces of paper and place them in a box or hat. Each member draws a name, but doesn't reveal who they drew. For the next few days, family members secretly do good deeds for the person whose name they drew.

For younger kids

Talk to little ones about jobs they can do to help around the house such as sweeping, getting the mail, or feeding a pet. Adults can learn humility by sharing the chores, and little ones learn to be helpers.

For older kids

Use a drawing program on the computer to create "You are special" awards for family members. Pass these out on the day you reveal the identity of the secret good deed doers, mentioned above.

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