

Topic: Proper Humanity – No Competition

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “And they were silent, for they had argued with one another on the way about who was greater” (Mark 9:34).

Focus: At school and in activities our focus should be to do the best that we can rather than trying to be greater than others. When we want to be greater than others it often leads to arguments or boasting.

Practical Application: Ask the children to name the times when they might argue with their friends. Often friends end up arguing due to competition because they want to win. Consider telling the story of the disciples arguing in Mark 9.

Intermediate:

Verse: “Let us not become vainglorious, provoking one another, envying one another” (Galatians 5:26).

Focus: We should always do the best we can in everything we do. But we should not do things just to prove to others that we are better than they are at that thing.

Practical Application: When you take a test at school you should do the best you can. When the teacher gives you the test back, you should not compare your score with the other children. Ask the children if they like it when someone competes with them just to prove (show off) that they are smarter or better than them.

Advanced:

Verse: “Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3).

Focus: A proper person always does their best and also supports others to do their best. They do not get disappointed if others can do things better than them and they do not boast when they can do things better than others.

Practical Application: Consider using Philippians 2:3 to discuss with the children why we would compete with others. The reason for competition is ambition and vainglory. When they do well at something is it easy for them to keep quiet about it? If they do not do so well at something do they want to quit?