



**CHRISTMAS JOY
OFFERING**

2026 | **WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD**

A Curriculum for Older Children/Youth

Written by the Rev. Lanie Sipes

Key Scripture – Micah 6:8

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?*

A Little About the Christmas Joy Offering

“Walking humbly” with God involves caring for others, reflecting God’s love in our actions, especially for the vulnerable and those in need. The Christmas Joy Offering, received during the season of Advent, provides an opportunity for Presbyterians to engage and support leadership development for people of all ages. It is centered around the causes of children at risk, ministries with youth and young adults, leadership development for people of color, Schools and Colleges Equipping Communities of Color, and the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We celebrate God’s greatest gift to us, his Son, Jesus Christ, by ensuring that all people created and loved by God have the tools they need to provide transformative leadership in the Church and the world.

Lesson Plan

1. GATHERING

A) Welcome

- Welcome each person by name (*if you don’t know everyone’s name, go around and share names*).
- Light a candle in the center of the table/room to indicate that the Holy Spirit is present.
- Welcome the Holy Spirit.
- **Say:** “We remember that where two or more are gathered, God is there. So, we welcome one another, and we welcome the Holy Spirit to this sacred space we are creating together.”

- B) Read Micah 6:8 together responsively. You can print this out ahead of time, or it can be on a screen in the room.

LEADER: He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you?

ALL: To do justice.

LEADER: What does the Lord require of you?

ALL: To love kindness.

LEADER: What does the Lord require of you?

ALL: To walk humbly with God.

- C) Centering Breath Prayer

Say: Let us pray together and listen carefully for my directions in the prayer.

"God,

(*Breathe In*) **teach us your ways,**

(*Breathe Out*) **and lead us in love."**

Repeat a few times.

Amen.

2. CONNECTING

- A) Icebreaker – Human Bingo

- Give everyone a bingo card (*see Page 5 at the end of this curriculum*).
- Have everyone mark off the free space and explain the basic rules of how to get a bingo (five across, diagonal, corners, etc.).
- Explain that everyone will go around to others in the room to ask them about things they are good at doing (their gifts). When you find someone who is good at something on your bingo card, write their name in that spot on your card.
- The first person to get a bingo and yell "bingo" wins.
- *Modifications:*
 - *Some children/youth will need help with some of the words. It may be helpful to go over all the bingo spaces before you begin or partner a reader with a pre-reader and one bingo card.*
 - *If you have a smaller group, you may need to allow people to put the same person's name in multiple spots on their card.*
 - *If you have more time, you could challenge children/youth to fill up their entire card before yelling "bingo."*

3. LEARNING

A) Introduce Sub Theme — Walk Humbly with God

- **Ask:** What do you think being humble looks like? What does it feel like? *(Give time for children/youth to respond and discuss.)* What do you think it means to “walk humbly with God”? *(Give time again for children/youth to respond and discuss.)*
- **Say:** The passage from the Bible, Micah 6:8, was originally written in Hebrew. In Hebrew, the word for walk is *halak* and the word for humbly is *tsana*. Together, these mean to walk or live in a way that is humble, modest or lowly. This doesn’t mean that we make ourselves less or our gifts (the things we are good at) less but that we use them not just for ourselves but for others, too. We share our gifts and talents, and we encourage others to share theirs. Throughout God’s story, we see that walking humbly with God is sharing the gifts given to us and noticing and including the gifts of others. It is being committed to showing love to others by using the gifts we have been given to help make the world a better place — a place where everyone and every gift is valued.
- **Ask:** What gifts do you have to share? What are the gifts of the other people in the room? How can you use your gift to help someone? *(This would be a great time to revisit the bingo cards and have children/youth share the gifts of the other children/youth in the room. Leave space for them to ask questions. You could also have children write or draw themselves using their gift to help someone.)*

B) Share about the Christmas Joy Offering.

- **Say:** The Christmas Joy Offering is a way to support our leaders — past, present and future. We join with thousands of other PC(USA) congregations across the country to participate through giving a portion of what we have to support PC(USA) ministries working to ensure justice through many different causes in the name of Jesus Christ.
- You can use the information about the offering above. You can also visit the [PC\(USA\) Special Offerings webpage](https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/christmas-joy-offering) (<https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/christmas-joy-offering>) for more information, resources and videos.

C) Share the story of Jesus’ birth from Luke 2:1–20 *(Pick which way of sharing the story works best for your group!)*

- You can read from “The Book of Belonging” by Mariko Clark (p. 166).
- You can watch a video about [Luke 1–2 from The Bible Project](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OLezoUvOEQ) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OLezoUvOEQ) *(watch through 4:16)*
- You can do a reader’s theater version *(Note: Use at least “The Birth of Jesus” and “The Shepherds and the Angels.” If you have more time, you could do all the parts. If you have pageant costumes you could use, that makes it even more fun!)*

4. REFLECTING

A) Discussion questions:

- **Ask:** What does the story of Jesus' birth from Luke teach us about walking humbly with God?
- **Ask:** Why is it important that Jesus was born in this humble and vulnerable way?
- **Ask:** Why would this have been surprising to people at the time Jesus was born? Is it still surprising for us today?
- **Ask:** What do you think it would have been like to be one of the shepherds who heard the good news and came to the manger? How do you think they felt?
- **Ask:** What gift would you bring to the manger? What gifts would you receive?

5. ENGAGING

- A) See the Activities Page for different ways to engage the "Walk Humbly with God" theme — crafts, games, group projects, group activity/outing. Pick what works best for your group/time/setting!

6. WONDERING

- A) Wondering prompts for the group to consider aloud or privately (*these can be discussed in the large group, small groups, or reflected on silently*):
- I wonder what God was speaking to us through this time together today ...
 - I wonder what we learned about walking humbly with God ...
 - I wonder how we'll live into walking humbly with God ...

7. SENDING

- A) Sending Song (*Pick which works best for your group!*)

- "Come! Live in the Light!" (GTG #749)
- "What Does the Lord Require of You?" (GTG #70)
- **Micah 6:8** (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VH9VbRY_1n4) Song by Slugs & Bugs

- B) Blessing

Say: Go now to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God. May your life reflect the goodness God has shown you, and may you know God's peace. Amen. (*Encourage children/youth to share a sign of peace — a handshake, hug, high five or peace sign — with one another as they say goodbye!*)



QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact us at **800-728-7228, ext. 5047**

or email special.offerings@pcusa.org

pcusa.org/special-offerings/christmas-joy-offering

HUMAN BINGO

Talk with others to learn about their gifts
and see if you can get a
BINGO!

An Artist



Asks Good Questions



Is Kind



Loves to Build



Plays Sports



Knows Another Language



A Singer



Has a Good Imagination



Encourages Others



A Good Storyteller



Plays an Instrument



Makes People Laugh



FREE SPACE

Good Listener



Determined



A Dancer



Loves to Cook/Bake



Gives Thoughtful Gifts



Cares About Animals



Can Sew, Quilt, or Finger Knit



A Good Friend



Shows Love by Serving



A Photographer



Is Innovative



A Teacher

