



**CHRISTMAS JOY
OFFERING**

2026 | **WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD**

A Curriculum for Younger Children

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 or room to indicate that the Holy Spirit is present. (You could use an LED candle with younger kids, if you feel uncomfortable using a real candle or flame.)
- Welcome the Holy Spirit.
- **Say:** “We remember that when we are together, God is with us. God is always with us. So, we say hello to one another, and we say hello to the Holy Spirit as we make this special, holy space together.”

- B) Read Micah 6:8 together responsively. (*An alternative option for younger kids is to read from a story Bible, like “The Peace Table Story Bible.”*)

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: “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. (*Children who cannot write will need extra help with this. You could also simply have them mark off the space with a heart or “x,” if writing names is too complicated for your group.*)
- The first person to get a bingo and yell “bingo” wins.
- *Modifications:*
 - *Younger children, especially those who don’t yet read well, 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 children to put the same person’s name in multiple spots on their card.*
 - *If you have more time, you could challenge children to fill up their entire card before yelling “bingo.”*

3. LEARNING

A) Introduce Sub Theme — Walk Humbly with God

- **Ask:** Has anyone heard the word “humble” before? What do you think being humble looks like? What does it feel like? *(Give time for children to respond and discuss.)* What do you think it means to “walk humbly with God”? *(Give time again for children to respond and discuss.)*
- **Say:** The passage from the Bible, Micah 6:8, was originally written in a language called 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 share the gifts of the other children in the room. You may need to unpack some of these bigger words/concepts with children. 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) Read “Maybe God Is Like That Too” by Jennifer Grant.

- You can order this book online, find it in a library or share the [read-aloud video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkeQP03Vv_w) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkeQP03Vv_w).
- Other books that connect well with the theme are:
 - “The Rabbit Listened” by Cori Doerrfeld
 - “Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem” by Maya Angelou
 - “Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers’ Strike of 1909” by Michelle Markel

4. REFLECTING

A) Discussion questions:

- **Ask:** Where do you see God in the world around you?
- **Ask:** When have you felt God's love through someone else?
- **Ask:** What are some ways you can show God's love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control to others?
- **Ask:** What do you think this has to do with walking humbly with God? *(Some possible discussion points could be paying close attention to those around you, being grateful, and being a blessing to or sharing gifts with others.)*

5. ENGAGING

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

6. WONDERING

A) Wondering prompts:

- 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

- **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 to share a sign of peace — a handshake, hug, peace sign or high five — 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

