



**CHRISTMAS JOY
OFFERING**

2026 | **WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD**

An Intergenerational Curriculum

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*).
It may also be good to have name tags.
- 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 6 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, especially younger children who can't read yet. 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 people 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? What do you think it means to “walk humbly with God”? *(Give time for everyone to respond and discuss. If you have a larger group, you can break them into smaller discussion groups.)*
- **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 belittle our gifts (the things we are good at) 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, encouraging, and including the gifts and talents 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? *(This would be a great time to revisit the bingo cards and have people share the gifts of the other people in the room. Leave space for questions. Again, if you have a larger group, you can break them into smaller discussion groups.)*

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 an emerging leader or multiple emerging leaders. *(Pick the emerging leader or leaders who would be most interesting to your group! Maybe you even know an emerging leader who isn’t on this list. Daneen Akers’ book “Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints” could also be a good resource — many of the people highlighted in her book started their ministry, work or advocacy at a young age. Find an article or video to share about the emerging leader or leaders you choose.)*

- Is there a **young person in your church or community** whose story you could highlight? Maybe you could invite them to share their story with your group.
- **Jaden Jefferson:** An American political reporter who interviewed Sen. Elizabeth Warren and now hosts a podcast titled “Behind the Byline.”
- **Greta Thunberg:** A Swedish activist who started the global “School Strike for Climate” movement.
- **Malala Yousafzai:** A Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest Nobel Prize laureate.

- **X González:** A survivor of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting who co-founded the March for Our Lives movement.
- **Judith Heumann:** An internationally recognized leader in the disability community and lifelong civil rights advocate.
- **Marley Dias:** An activist who started the #1000BlackGirlBooks campaign to collect and distribute books by or about Black girls.
- **Xiuhtezcatl Martinez:** An Indigenous youth activist who speaks on environmental issues and climate justice.
- **Jamie Margolin:** The founder of the youth-led climate movement Zero Hour.
- It could also be interesting to look at some people who equip, encourage and amplify the voices of emerging leaders, such as:
 - **Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers):** A PC(USA) minister who educated, encouraged and empowered children through his show, “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.”

4. REFLECTING

A) Discussion questions:

- **Ask:** What did you learn from the story of this/these emerging leader(s)?
- **Ask:** How can we help equip and encourage emerging leaders? *(If you shared about Mr. Rogers, you could bring them into the discussion here.)*
- **Ask:** How can we equip and encourage one another?
- **Ask:** What does this have to do with walking humbly with God?
- **Ask:** Why do we need the gifts of everyone to authentically mirror the image of God and truly be the Body of Christ in the world?

5. ENGAGING

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

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 everyone 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



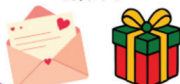
A Dancer



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

