The Gospel Project for Adults, Winter 2017-18
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Special Session (Christmas)

Introduction: ***Start with a word cloud.***

On a board or large piece of paper, draw a simple outline of a Christmas tree or star. Say something like the following: "Let's put together a word cloud made up of all the words that come to mind when you think of Christmas." As learners offer words, add them to the inside of the outline. (Note: If you're unsure of what a word cloud is, use a search engine to look for the image of "Christmas word cloud.") Continue to write words until the outline is packed.

After all is over, say, "I notice that the word *humble* didn't make our list. Did anyone think of *humility* when they thought of Christmas?" Challenge learners to think differently about Christmas this year with today's passage about Jesus.

Point 1: ***Survey the concept of humility in the Bible.***

Point out that Paul's words in Philippians 2:5 are an instruction: "Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus…"

Say, "The Bible speaks to humbling ourselves several times. Let's look at each of those." Enlist volunteers to read the following passages:

- Exodus 10:3
- 2 Kings 22:19
- 2 Chronicles 34:27
- Proverbs 6:3
- Daniel 10:12

Discuss how these passages build upon the instruction in Philippians 2:5.

If convenient, you can use the following link to provide the passages for your group members:
https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=humble+yourself&qs_version=CSB

Point 2: ***Discuss the need to cultivate obedience.***

Ask, "Have you ever had a pet dog that wouldn't obey? What happened because of his or her lack of obedience?"

Show the following clip, "Smartest Doberman Pinscher Muzzle Training" (41 seconds):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=41&v=lEQBkktknLc

Say something like the following: "Good obedience doesn't happen overnight. It takes many hours of discipline and trust. However, we can only imagine the benefits of having a well-trained dog."

Encourage learners to discuss how humility and obedience work together, both for dogs and for us. Challenge learners to accept God as their master and to submit to obeying Him to His honor and glory.

Conclusion: ***Contrast "I deserve" with "I yield."***

Before class, prepare two pieces of cardboard. On the first, write, "I deserve…" and on the second write, "I yield…"

Hold up the first piece of cardboard and verbally state several "I deserve" statements for your own life. For example, you might say something like, "I deserve to have a great job, great family, and great life. I deserve to spend my free time, as I like. I deserve to have a church that meets my needs."

Then say, "This may be what the world says or what we might say when we're honest, but this is not how a follower of Christ, living according to His example, lives." Hold up the second piece of cardboard and say an "I yield" statement for any of the "I deserve statements" you said earlier. For example, "I yield my desire for perfection in my job and my family. I yield my selfish claim to my free time. I yield my expectations of others."

Challenge learners to complete the same activity, either in class or alone this week.

Teaching Tip of the Week

This might not be your typical Christmas session, but it is necessary in a world of excess and self-promotion. During the week leading up to your group meeting, encourage learners to attend and be ready to engage if they are in town.