

Use “The Scene” to introduce “Choosing Humility” the Young Teen Sunday school lesson for January 15, 2017. The lesson is found on page 43 of *Young Teen Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



The little boy looked all of 3, maybe 4 years old. His mother had dressed him in a replica guard costume, which was pretty wonderful (and part of the reason the video of this recent event went viral). And there he stood, waiting eagerly to see the stars he had come to see—the royal guard of the Queen of England. As he watched the traditional changing of the guard routine, the little boy came close and stood as tall and straight as he could, with his hand raised to his furry hat in a salute.

He was in every way, the picture of humility. As Charlotte the spider said in *Charlotte's Web*: “‘Humble’ has two meanings. It means ‘not proud’ and it means ‘near the ground.’ That’s Wilbur all over. He’s not proud and he’s near the ground.” The same could be said of this little boy—he was definitely near the ground, and he was not too proud to offer himself up in tribute to the other men in uniform.

And then, in a highly uncharacteristic move, the leader of the guard came back out from the recesses of the tower and marched right over to the boy, motioning him to stand by him so his mother could get a photo. The man saluted the little boy and then went back into soldier mode, marching away.

The boy looked a bit stunned and surprised at what had just happened. But no doubt he was also delighted. What a reward!

As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:

Have you ever had someone you really looked up to or have you ever wanted to meet someone very famous? How much did that desire play a role in your life? Did you try to meet the person?

What do you think it means to be humble? Do you think the little boy in this story was demonstrating humility? Explain.

The royal guardsmen definitely have the look of people who are quite proud about what they do. Is that kind of pride good or bad? Explain. What do you consider a bad kind of pride?

Pride is easier to develop than we sometimes think. And humility can be harder to strive for than we realize. Today we’re going to look at a biblical perspective of the trap of pride vs. the blessings of humility.