

1. **Intro Story:** “Still A Chief Sinner”
  1. Many years ago John Newton, the converted slave trader who became a preacher and a Christian poet, lay upon his deathbed. A young clergyman came to see him and expressed deep regret at the prospect of losing so eminent a laborer in the Lord’s vineyard. The venerable servant of God replied, “True, I m going on before you, but you’ll soon come after me. When you arrive, our friendship will no doubt cause you to inquire for me. But I can tell you already where you’ll most likely find me—I’ll be sitting at the feet of the thief whom Jesus saved in His dying moments on the cross!” Although a distinguished man, Newton felt with Paul that he could only class himself among the chief of sinners who have been saved through marvelous grace. — Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979). Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations
2. **Key Verses:** Matthew 2:12–14; The plan of God was for the humble Son of GOd, Jesus, to be raised in a town with a bad reputation.
  1. **Concept:** “Joseph used his “sanctified common sense” and did not return to Judea. God affirmed the decision, and the family moved to Nazareth. Matthew refers to what “was spoken by the prophets” (v. 23, note the plural) but does not give any specific references. The word “Nazarene” may relate to the Heb. word *netzer* which means “branch,” a name for Jesus. This is why Matthew wrote “prophets” (plural) since Christ is called “the Branch” in Isa. 11:1 and 4:2; also Jer. 23:5 and 33:15, and Zech. 3:8 and 6:12. Because He lived in a despised place, Jesus was like a lowly branch; but the Branch would one day blossom with beauty and great glory. Nazareth was an ignoble town. “Can anything good come from there?” asked Nathanael (John 1:46, NIV). Jesus was a humble King. He emptied and humbled Himself even unto death to save us (see Phil. 2:1–11). — Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1992).
3. **Quote:** “The sweetest and best lesson to be learned will be that of humility. “Learn of Me,” says the **humble Nazarene**; “for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” - EGW 2T pg 483
4. **Concept:** When we have ambition to be like Jesus, we are wise to remember His meek origins and humble life.
5. **Text:** Philippians 2:5-11
  1. **Quote:** “Christ did not exalt man by ministering to his pride. He humbled himself, and became obedient to death, even the death of the cross; and unless human pride is humbled and subdued, unless the stubborn heart is made tender by the Spirit of Christ, it is not possible for him to impress his divine similitude upon us. He, the humble Nazarene, might have poured contempt upon the world's pride, for he was commander in the heavenly courts; but he came to our world in humility, in order to show that it is not riches or position or authority or honorable titles, that the universe of heaven respects and honors, but those who will follow Christ, making any position or duty honorable by the virtue of their character, through the power of his grace.”- EGW 11LMTS LT 81,1896 par. 17
6. **Appeal Story:** “Humility Is”
  1. Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and above is trouble. — Andrew Murray
7. **Appeal Prayer:** LORD, may we learn as Jesus did: “Heavenly beings were His attendants, and the culture of holy thoughts and communings was His. From the first dawning of intelligence He was constantly growing in spiritual grace and knowledge of truth.” DA pg. 70