**August 24 Lesson 13 Upper Elementary Sunday School Lesson**

**Be A Copycat**.

**Bible Basis**: Philippians 1:12-13; 4:6-9

**Focus**: The Bible teaches us to think and act like Jesus.

**Connecting with God’s Word**: To help students relate to the Bible study on thinking and acting like Jesus, they played a copycat game to discuss times they think it’s good to follow others.

**Interacting with God’s Word**: Students read how Paul encouraged believers to think and act like Jesus.

**Applying God’s Word:** Students were to choose a place and a way they can think and act like Jesus this week.

**Understanding the Bible**: Paul wrote 13 letters (epistles) that make up a large part of the New Testament. Paul was an apostle of Christ. Paul, even while under arrest for two years, preached the gospel and continued writing letters of instruction and encouragement to the Church. Paul’s writings are full of encouragement and joy. He assured the Phillipians that God was not defeated because of Paul’s chains. In fact, because of these chains, the Church was emboldened to spread the good news of Jesus even more fearlessly. Paul encouraged the Church to follow his example of what it meant to follow Jesus. Paul was telling them not just to be cheerful in persecution but rejoicing in the Lord meant that they could lean on Him to hold them up and trust Him to give peace in any situation.

**Memory verse:** *“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”* Phillipians 2:5

We all can probably name a time in our lives when we tried to think and act like another person. We may follow another person for many reasons; perhaps we want to imitate someone because we respect and admire that person. Did you know that the Bible tells us that it is a good thing to be a copycat? That is, if we follow the right person. Let’s find out who we should think and act like and how we can do it.

Students discussed the meaning of: selfish ambition – thinking only of how to get ahead without thinking of others and vain conceit – thinking oneself to be great or better than others and how these two words go against Jesus’ humility when He said, *“Look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

**Summarization of the lesson**: Students learned that the Bible teaches us to think and act like Jesus. They took a moment to think about what Jesus’ attitude is like. (caring, humble, merciful, obedient, truthful.)

**Seeing God throughout the week**: Students were encouraged to think and act like Jesus, using God’s Word as a guide. They were invited to read the Phillipians verses from today’s Bible study and ask God to help them imitate Him in their daily lives.

Next Quarter:

September: Escaping Egypt; trust in God’s provision; scripture from Exodus; value: discernment

October: God delivers us; God’s desire to be present in our lives; Exodus cont.; God-seeking

November: Following God with courage; with God all things are possible; scripture from Numbers and Joshua; hope