# #GetOverYourSelfie: Humility Over Pride.

Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God — truly righteous and holy. Ephesians 4:21-24 NLT

How do I get over myself and experience God’s best?

1. Focus on Jesus.
2. Get rid of the old.
3. Put on the new (God’s righteousness).

## Icebreaker

When I was a kid, I sure thought I was something! As a teen, one of the daredevil activities my friends and I tried was swimming in the local gravel pit. I remember the afternoon my buddy and I were about halfway across the reservoir when he commented, “I bet we’re in about 75 feet of water right now.” For some reason this struck me as funny and we both started laughing. My laughing made me lose strength to keep swimming. I made it to the other side, but I did not swim back. I walked! This experience taught me to see myself in a more realistic light. Maybe I wasn’t as much of a “something” as I thought! The experience humbled me, in a good way.

* When you were a kid or a teen, did you have an experience that taught you to be humble? Share it with the group.

## Video

Watch this week’s video – Humility Over Pride<https://www.lifegroupleaders.ca/studies/getoveryourselfie/>

## Study

As a group, try coming up with a definition of pride. The kind of pride God hates. Write it down.

Pride is …

### The Pride Test

(Allen Parr – 15 subtle signs of pride in your life)

Have each group member do a quick self-assessment. Read through the 15 signs of pride as a group. Which one or two of the following would you identify with most strongly as a pride area in your life?

1. Assuming I already know something when someone is teaching. For example, when I hear the topic of a sermon or hear a Bible passage being read, I think, “I already know about this” and I close off to God’s work to teach me something new.
2. Seeing myself as too good to perform certain tasks. For example, stacking chairs at church, cleaning toilets at home, I may think, “I’m not doing that lowly task. Find someone else.”
3. Being too proud to ask for help. May happen because I don’t want to be seen as having a need or a weakness.
4. Feeling the need to consistently teach people things. Viewing myself as an authority and letting others know this on many of the topics that come up in conversation.
5. Talking about myself a lot. Referring often to my education, sports abilities, work, or other accomplishments. Neglecting to be more interested in others.
6. Thinking I am better than others who are different or less fortunate. May be an internal perception or manifested in what I say or how I treat others.
7. When I disregard the advice of others, thinking I have more insight than others. Believing I can be successful without input from others.
8. When I am constantly critical. This may be putting others down in order to elevate myself or a failure to see my own shortcomings because I only critique others.
9. Consistent need for attention or affirmation. Drawing the spotlight to my accomplishments, personality, intelligence, and popularity.
10. Unable to receive constructive criticism. When I’m closed off from how the feedback of others might help me become a better person.
11. Overly obsessed with physical appearance. When I’m focused on how my looks are impressing others over how my character is pleasing to God.
12. Unwilling to submit to authority. When I’m unwilling to submit to authority at work, church, home, or any relationship because I don’t like having someone “over” me.
13. Ignoring people’s attempt to communicate with me. When I consistently ignore certain people who email or text me because I feel I’m too important or busy.
14. Justifying my sin instead of admitting it. When I cover up, minimize, deflect, or deny my sin. When I won’t own up because I don’t want to look bad to others.
15. Name dropping. When I make a habit of mentioning popular, successful people I know in order to emphasize that I also am popular and successful.

* Why are we prone to pride?
* Talk about a time when your pride hurt you or others.

All who fear the LORD will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech. Proverbs 8:13 NLT

* Why do you think the author would say, “I hate pride”?
* Did you associate pride with the other things listed in this proverb?
* Would you have put pride in the same category?

The wicked are too proud to seek God. They seem to think that God is dead. Proverbs 10:4 NLT

* One of the reasons God hates pride is that it can keep people from seeking Him. What might this look like? (for example, a person who believes they don’t need a Saviour)
* Where do you see this happening in our culture today?
* “Pride is giving ourselves credit for something God has accomplished.” Got Questions How does this quote relate to this proverb?

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall. Better to live humbly with the poor than to share plunder with the proud. Proverbs 16:18-19 NLT

* “Pride goes before destruction” – Why would pride lead to destruction?
* “Haughtiness before a fall” – When have you seen this happen?
* What are the dangers of pride? See if your group can come up with five examples.

Read Isaiah 14:12-15. This passage can be interpreted as an account of Satan being thrown out of heaven.

* How do we see the dangers of pride in these verses?
* In what ways can we exhibit these same expressions of pride?

One character trait of humility is the second-most frequently taught trait in the New Testament, second only to love. I regard these two traits as the foundational stones of Christian character. All other traits, in one way or another, are built upon love and humility.

Jerry Bridges The Blessing of Humility

### Embracing humility

As a group, come up with a definition of humility. Write it down.

Humility is ...

* When Ken talked about God being humble, how did that strike you?
* Did that help in any way to shape your thinking on what humility actually is?

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3 NIV

God is looking for people who are poor in spirit, those who admit they are absolutely bankrupt in their ability to earn favour with God.

* Why is this kind of humility such an important posture to have in our relationship with God?

… all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour. 1 Peter 5:5-6 NLT

Not only are we to be humble in our relationship with God, we are also to be humble in our relationships with one another.

* What does it look like to “dress yourselves in humility”?
* What does it mean that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble”?

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
Ephesians 4:1-2 NIV

In these verses, Paul tells us how we are to live, or walk, in light of our calling, based on who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Part of this lifestyle is that we are to be completely humble with one another.

* Why are our relationships with others such an important indicator of our walk with God?

* Using these verses, how might you advise a high school student to live out their faith?

How about someone in business? How about someone who is a senior or retired?

Read Matthew 20:25-27.

* What lessons can we learn from these verses about the value of humility?
* Why are humility and serving so closely linked together? (see Philippians 2:3-8)

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| “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.” C.S. Lewis |

* How has this study encouraged you to get over pride and embrace humility?

## Prayer

As you pray, ask God to help you see areas of pride in your life. As He does this for you, confess to Him and ask Him to help you get over pride. Ask God to help you grow in humility, so that you can experience God’s blessing that comes from being humble like Jesus.