

Get Over Your Selfie
Humility Over Pride
LEADER NOTES
Sunday, November 3rd, 2019

Hi LifeGroup leaders! As we launch into week 4 of our study, I encourage you to begin your group time by reading Ephesians 4:21-24. These verses are a reminder of the overall goal of our series to focus on Jesus, get rid of the old and put on the new. Have someone read those verses out loud to the group, read the series questions and three steps, then launch into the icebreaker!

“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

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

Three steps: Focus on Jesus, get rid of the old, put on the new (God’s righteousness).

ICEBREAKER: I sure thought I was something! When I was a teen one of dare devil activities my friends and I tried out 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’ 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 “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/>

STUDY:

There are several ways pride is defined in our culture these days. Some are positive – like being proud of a job well done. The definition we’re going after for this study is the kind of pride we want to “get over”. This pride can be defined as arrogance – being overly focused on me, seeing myself as more important than others, living in such a way as to prioritize my needs and

desires above others. Encourage the group to come up with a definition of pride along these lines, the kind of pride God hates.

Pride defined:

As a group, give a go at creating your best definition of pride (the kind of pride God hates)

Write down your definition here

Pride is ... _____

THE PRIDE TEST – source – Allen Parr – 15 subtle signs of pride in your life.

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

Have someone read (or take turns in your group) the following signs of pride. Then ask your group members, “So, which would you say you struggle with?” To get the conversation started, it could help for you to go first about your own struggle with pride.

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. (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 consistently critical. This may be putting others down in order to elevate myself or 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, popularity.
 10. Unable to receive constructive criticism. When I'm closed to 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.

READ Proverbs 8:13

"All who fear the LORD will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech." NLT

- Why do you think the author would say, "I hate pride"?

In this verse, pride is associated with evil, a sign that we do not fear the LORD as we should. The author hates pride because he sees it as something evil that keeps him from a right relationship with God.

- Did you associate pride with the other things listed in this proverb? Would you have put pride in the same category?

Arrogance, corruption, perverse speech – all of these can flow from or be the result of pride. This Proverb helps us understand just how destructive this kind of pride can be in our lives.

READ Proverbs 10:4

“The wicked are too proud to seek God. They seem to think that God is dead.” NLT

- One of the reasons God hates pride is that it can keep people from seeking Him. What might this look like? (example – a person who believes they don’t need a Saviour)

Other examples – ignoring the evidence of an intelligent design in our world – ignoring the desire God puts in our heart to seek Him – chasing after pleasing ourselves rather than God.

- Where do you see this happening in our culture today?

READ Proverbs 16:18-19

“Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall. Better to live humbly with the poor than to share plunder with the proud.” NLT

- “Pride goes before destruction” – why would pride lead to destruction?

Pride destroys our relationship with God and others.

- “Haughtiness before a fall” – when have you seen this happen?
- What are the dangers of pride? See if your group can come up with 5 examples.

Pride can blind us to our need for a Saviour. Pride gives us a false sense of self-sufficiency. Pride causes us to stop seeking God because we have had a negative religious experience. Pride short circuits our life purpose, to bring glory to God.

- “Pride is giving ourselves credit for something God has accomplished.” [Got Questions](#)
How does this quote relate to this proverb?

When we fail to thank God for our accomplishments, we deceive ourselves to believe all we have is because of our own effort and abilities.

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?

“I will ascend to heaven” – we people can have this attitude. I can become my own god. Like Satan, we can abuse the blessings God sends our way. Rather than worship God, we can worship ourselves by making my life, my desires, my hobbies and work, the central focus of my life.

- In what ways can we exhibit these same expressions of pride?

EMBRACING HUMILITY

The 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

Create as a group a definition of humility. Write your definition here:

Humility is seeing myself as God sees me. I am his child, dearly loved by Him. I am also a sinner who can only be saved by His grace.

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?

READ Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” 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?

In order for us to understand our need for a Saviour, we must understand our own moral bankruptcy. Too often we compare ourselves to others rather than see ourselves from God's perspective. I'm not just a little better or worse than the next guy. The Bible tells me I am desperately in need of a Saviour.

READ 1 Peter 5:5-6

"... 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." 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"?

Humility is a way of thinking a living I must choose to put on daily. This should impact the way I perceive, talk to and treat others. For a benchmark, think about your closest relationships. Am I truly humble in the way I see them, talk to them, treat them?

- What does it mean that "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble"?

God resists our unhealthy pride. He wants to break us of it. When we choose to turn from pride, He showers us with His grace, the ability to live in a new way, in godly humility.

READ Ephesians 4:1-2

"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." 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?

How we relate to others is an indicator of how we relate with God. If I am out of sync with God, I will likely be out of sync with others. When I understand that God loves me unconditional, (even though I am a sinner), when I experience His grace, I am going to treat others as He has treated me.

- Using these verses, how might you advise a highschool 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?

Godly humility is the opposite of what we so often experience in our world. Rather than living to elevate myself, I live to elevate others. A humble attitude will result in a posture of serving others. Humility is valuable in my life because it gives me God's perspective of who I am and how I should live for His glory.

"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, to experience God's blessing that comes from being humble like Jesus.