

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 20

Pride and Humility

Pride and Humility

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To show the students that those who lift themselves up in pride will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted, using the story of King Uzziah to illustrate this truth.

Key Verses

Proverbs 3:34
Proverbs 11:2
Proverbs 13:10
Proverbs 16:5, 18-19
Proverbs 22:4
Proverbs 29:23

2 Chronicles 26

Memory Verse - Proverbs 16:18-19

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Proverbs 25:21-22.

Write the word "pride" on the board. Ask the kids what pride means and how they would use it in a sentence.

Explain to the students that sometimes we use the word pride to describe when we take joy in achieving something, like accomplishing something challenging. The pride we read about in Scripture is a little different. It's more about boasting in ourselves and being self-righteous. As we will see in our lesson today, this is very dangerous.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

As Proverbs teaches us about wisdom and foolishness, one thing we see again and again associated with fools is pride. To be proud is to put yourself above others and God. Fools lift themselves up in their pride above their neighbor and even above God, but God brings the proud person low (29:23) and warns us not associate with the proud (16:19) lest we fall into the same harmful way, even if it means enjoying momentary “spoils.” The warning is clear: pride always brings shame (11:2), strife (13:20), and ultimately destruction (16:18).

On the other hand, humility is evidence of wisdom (11:2). Humility acknowledges God as King, allowing us to properly serve Him and others. The humble do not seek to be honored, but to honor God and others above themselves. God rewards the humble with grace (3:34) and blesses those who fear Him in humility with riches and honor and life (22:4), but those who lift themselves up in pride He resists and brings low. The danger lies in becoming proud when we are finally honored, and this is exactly what we see happen to King Uzziah.

In 2 Chronicles 26, we learn about a king named Uzziah who “did what was right in the eyes of the LORD... As long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.” He became very great, with much riches and honor, but he failed to *continue* to walk in humility. He became proud and his pride destroyed him. He went into the temple to burn incense at the altar, something only the priests were allowed to do. When the priests stood up to him and told him to leave, he became angry, and God struck him with leprosy. He was driven from the temple and lived as an outcast in isolation for the rest of his life.

LOOK

When we speak of pride in our everyday conversations, it’s usually associated with something positive. Your teacher tells you, “You should be proud of what you have accomplished in school this year!” Or your coach says, “I’m proud of how you played out there today!” But the pride spoken of in Scripture is a little different. To be proud is to be self-righteous, putting yourself in the place of God and making yourself out to be better than everyone else. The pride spoken of in Scripture is always destructive. It’s what led to Satan being cast out of heaven, and what led Adam and Eve to partake of the forbidden fruit, causing sin and death to enter the world. It’s no wonder that God hates pride!

One of the things that helps us identify pride is boasting. To boast about yourself means to tell everyone else about your achievements and how awesome you are. Think about the football player beating his chest when he makes a good tackle or gets a touchdown. Boasting makes you feel big and awesome and makes everyone else out to be small and not as

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

good as you. But the Bible teaches us that we actually don't have anything to boast about in and of ourselves. Who made you the way you are? "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it" (1 Cor. 4:7)? We are what we are by God's grace. Even the breath in our lungs is a gift from Him. So those who are wise humbly make their boast in God alone. Praise the Lord for the abilities you have to make art, sing, play sports, etc. And praise the Lord for saving us. "It is not by works we are saved, but through faith, lest any man should boast!"

So to be proud is really to say, "God, I don't need You. I'm going to be my own god and do whatever I want in my own strength. I'll get along just fine without you." And the sad reality is that God gives the proud person exactly what they ask for. God resists the proud, and refusing to humbly acknowledge the need for and accept God's help will lead to destruction and ruin. But God gives grace to the humble. So in wisdom, let us walk in humility toward God and toward others, remembering that if we have any talent or ability that tempts us to feel like we are better than anybody else, it's only because God has given us that ability.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Proverbs 16:18-19.

Pray: Thank God for the warnings in His Word against the foolishness of pride and for the grace that He gives to the humble. Ask Him to give you wisdom to continue to walk in humility.

Parent Question: What will happen to those who lift themselves up in pride? What will God do for the humble?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Select Proverbs by David Guzik

Proverbs 3:34

c. **He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble:** This wonderful principle is repeated three times in the Bible (also in [James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#)). It shows how pride sets God in opposition to us, but humility invites the **grace** of God. We want to be **humble** and receive God's grace.

i. There is a sense in which Solomon spoke of *wisdom* and *humility* as being closely related. Those who are wise enough to see God as He really is and ourselves as we really are will have a natural and appropriate humility.

ii. [James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#) quote the Septuagint translation of this verse, which—if anything—softened the force of the Hebrew phrasing here. “The verse uses a strong anthropomorphic idea: ‘He mocks the proud mockers.’ The LXX has a softened interpretation: ‘The Lord resists the proud’.” (Ross)

Proverbs 11:2

**When pride comes, then comes shame;
But with the humble is wisdom.**

a. **When pride comes, then comes shame:** The proud man or woman fears **shame**. Ironically, they cultivate **shame** and disgrace for themselves. One significant reason for this is that God resists the proud ([James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#)).

b. **With the humble is wisdom:** There is great **wisdom** in humility because it recognizes the truth about God and the truth about self, especially in relation to others. This humility is an important foundation for true **wisdom**.

i. **The humble:** “*Lowly* (AV, RV) is a rare word, found only here and (as a verb) in [Micah 6:8](#) (‘walk humbly with thy God’), where it suggests the biddable spirit that is the opposite of the insubordination just considered.” (Kidner)

ii. “The humble man looks for nothing but justice; has the meanest opinion of himself; expects nothing in the way of commendation or praise; and can never be disappointed but in receiving praise, which he neither expects nor desires.” (Clarke)

Proverbs 13:10

**By pride comes nothing but strife,
But with the well-advised is wisdom.**

a. **By pride comes nothing but strife: Pride**—excessive self-focus and self-regard—constantly generates **strife**. When people are focused on their own exaltation they will always attempt to advance themselves at the expense of others.

i. **Nothing but strife:** “Pride is a dividing distemper; gouty swollen legs keep at a distance; bladders blown up with wind spurt one from another, and will not close; but prick them, and you may pack a thousand of them in a little room.” (Trapp)

ii. “Perhaps there is not a *quarrel* among *individuals* in private life, nor a *war* among nations, that does not proceed from *pride* and *ambition*...It was to destroy this *spirit of pride*, that Jesus was manifested in the *extreme of humility* and *humiliation* among men. The salvation of Christ is a *deliverance* from *pride*, and a being clothed with *humility*. As far as we are *humble*, so far we are *saved*.” (Clarke)

b. **With the well-advised is wisdom:** Those who listen to and receive the counsel of others walk in **wisdom**.

[Proverbs 16:5](#)

**Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord;
Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.**

a. **Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord:** God resists the **proud** ([James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#)) and regards them as an **abomination**. The proud man or woman imitates Satan in his proud rebellion against God ([Isaiah 14:12-15](#)).

b. **Though they join forces, none will go unpunished:** One proud man or woman cannot succeed against God, but neither can many proud men or women. Even if they **join forces** against God as they did at Babel ([Genesis 11:1-9](#)), they will not **go unpunished**, even as at Babel.

[Proverbs 16:18](#)

**Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before a fall.**

a. **Pride goes before destruction:** God is opposed to the proud ([James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#)) and the proud man or woman is an abomination to God ([Proverbs 16:5](#)). With God so set against the proud, no wonder that **pride goes before destruction**.

i. “The special evil of pride is that it opposes the first principle of wisdom (the fear of the Lord) and the two great commandments.” (Kidner)

ii. “A bulging wall is near a downfall. Swelling is a dangerous symptom in the body; so is pride in the soul.” (Trapp)

iii. “So far as any man is proud, he is kin to the devil, and a stranger to God and to himself.” (Baxter, cited in Bridges)

b. **And a haughty spirit before a fall:** One of the many ways that **pride** is evident is in a **haughty spirit**—an attitude that communicates superiority over other people. Those who think themselves higher than others are ready to **fall** under the fair judgment of God.

i. “The proverb gives the strong impression of saying the same thing twice...In this way its truth is underscored and clarified; the proud are defined more precisely as the haughty in spirit.” (Waltke)

[Proverbs 16:19](#)

**Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly,
Than to divide the spoil with the proud.**

- a. **Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly:** Because pride is an abomination to God ([Proverbs 16:5](#)) and leads to destruction ([Proverbs 16:18](#)), it isn't so bad to live among the **lowly** and to have a **humble spirit**.
- b. **Than to divide the spoil with the proud:** A **humble** life among the **lowly** is **better** than having reward (**spoil**) among **the proud**. This is because **proud** people are not pleasant company, and because it is never good to join those whom God is set against.
- i. "A humble man is worth his weight in gold; he hath far more comfort in his losses than proud giants have in their rapines and robberies." (Trapp)

[Proverbs 22:4](#)

**By humility and the fear of the Lord
Are riches and honor and life.**

- a. **By humility and fear of the Lord:** These two qualities are connected. **Humility** is a proper view of self; **fear of the Lord** is a proper view of God. The person who has these two qualities is well on their way on the path the wisdom.
- b. **Are riches and honor and life:** Blessing will come to the wise man or woman who has **humility and the fear of the Lord**. They can certainly expect *spiritual* **riches and honor and life**, and often those same things materially in *this* world.
- i. "The most humble is the most triumphant Christian. He may be depressed, but he is highly exalted. He has the wealth of grace and of glory. Nobody can deprive him of these." (Bridges)

[Proverbs 29:23](#)

**A man's pride will bring him low,
But the humble in spirit will retain honor.**

- a. **A man's pride will bring him low:** Because God resists the proud ([James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#)), **pride** will naturally **bring** a man **low**. Like Satan, the one who hoped to rise higher through his pride will fall ([Isaiah 14:13-15](#)).
- i. Waltke points out that the Hebrew word translated "'Pride' derives from a root meaning 'to be high' and so constitutes a precise antithetical parallel of 'lowly.'"
- b. **The humble in spirit will retain honor:** Just as much as God resists the proud, He also gives grace to the humble (again, [James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#)). God's gracious blessing to the **humble in spirit** means they will gain and **retain honor**.
- i. "Thus honour, like a shadow, flees from them that pursue it, and follows them who flee from it." (Poole)