



The Art of Living, Week #2 Pride

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes)

Use the [House On Fire](#) icebreaker, choose from one of the other ice breakers on Emmanuel's [leader tools](#), or create your own.

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes)

Ask your group members to share how they completed their action step and what it has taught them. Last week's question was, "Going forward, what will you do to become more aware of God's presence and maintain a fear of the Lord?"

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Everyone wants a successful life, but we often face hardships that lead to feelings associated with defeat. Statistics about depression, anxiety, and incarceration show that living a successful life is not automatic. Still, when we spend time in scripture, we discover that a successful life is rooted in humility.

1. Describe humility. Who would you say is the humblest person you know? Why?

The opposite of humility is pride. Describe pride. Without identifying individual people, what characteristics do you notice in prideful people?

2. King Solomon repeats the idea of pride many times throughout the book of Proverbs. Take a look at some of the warning signs about pride by reading [Proverbs 11:2](#), [Proverbs 15:25](#), [Proverbs 16:18](#), and [Proverbs 29:23](#).

Pride is dangerous for a number of reasons.

- **A prideful person thinks they are above the law.** How have you been tempted to live above the law?
- **A prideful person is unteachable.** When have you exhibited an unteachable spirit?
- **A prideful person turns others off.** When has your pride strained one of your relationships?
- **A prideful person cannot reconcile.** How does pride keep us from reconciling?

In what areas of your life does pride have the tendency to show itself?



As King Solomon stated, “pride goes before destruction.” What consequences can you foresee if pride isn’t rooted out?

3. We must fight against pride by growing in humility. Read [James 4:6](#).

Humility is a proper view of ourselves in light of who God is. Read [Romans 8:38-39](#), [Isaiah 55:8-9](#) and [1 Timothy 6:15-16](#). God and His ways are beyond human comprehension. What attributes, characteristics, or stories about God will help us properly position Him in our hearts and minds?

What spiritual practices could help us maintain a posture of humility?

If we take practicing humility seriously, which areas of your life will you see the most improvement in? Why?

4. C. S. Lewis said, “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.” Humility is a choice. Going forward, how will you choose to grow in humility?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- An **evaluation of pride** should be happening regularly. Take 5-10 minutes daily to journal how pride has shown itself in your life over the past 24 hours.
 - Grow in humility by **servicing others**. Join the [Impact Team](#).
 - **Read** one chapter from the book of Proverbs each day over the next 30 days. This could be a great challenge to focus on as a group.
 - **Daily time with God**. Determine the type of routine you’d like to have to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - o [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - o [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - o Purchase a [Jesus Calling](#) devotional and read it daily.
 - o Devote time daily to using the [Bible Project](#) and the video teaching offered.
 - **Pray**. Seek discernment in God’s approval by devoting time every morning and night to praying on your knees. A penitent position in light of who God is can change our mental posture.
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FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK’S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group’s following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship
- 2) To encourage to accomplish their action step
- 3) To pray for in a specific way

Ask them to place the index card on their night stand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel’s Outreach Coordinator, at bschafer@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 13 | [VERB](#)

September 17 | [1824](#)

October 7 | [Night of Worship](#) Requires an RSVP that can be found at eclife.org

More information on all of these events can be found at eclife.org