

LEADER'S GUIDE

PRIDE vs *Humility*

replacing a law mindset with a grace focus

Single-Session Video Bible Study

- for group or individual use -

Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise stated.
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ABOUT THIS BIBLE STUDY

People often comment on my videos, asking questions like, “That’s encouraging, but how do I put these principles into practice?” The point of this Bible study is to give you a free resource you can use to further study the topic of *Pride vs Humility*, and to be able to practically apply Biblical truths about this issue to your life.

The single-session format of this study serves two purposes. First, it allows you to quickly delve into the Word and learn more about a specific subject. My hope, though, is not that you would simply go through this study and stop there. My goal is to get you to ask the question, “What else does the Bible say about this topic?” In a sense, it’s meant to whet your appetite for God’s Word. Second, a single-session study acts as a breather for small groups that are either in between studies or that want to supplement another study.

Whether you go through this study by yourself or in a group, my prayer is that God will begin to speak His truth into your life and that you will see real transformation take place.

-Troy Black

BIBLE STUDY FEATURES

1. *Video Lesson*
2. *Personal Study Packet*
3. *Small Group Leader’s Guide*

VIDEO LESSON

The video lesson that accompanies this study is **Pride vs Humility**. You can find a direct link by visiting TroyBlackVideos.com and clicking on Bible Studies. Another quick way to find this video is to simply search for “*Pride vs Humility by Troy Black*” on YouTube.

LEADERS: A downloadable version of the video lesson can also be found on TroyBlackVideos.com.

LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

GETTING STARTED

Start the meeting by asking a few people to briefly share something God has been doing in their lives. This can help foster an environment of expectation. An opening prayer will also help to prepare hearts to hear from the Lord.

VIDEO LESSON

Have the group watch the associated video individually prior to meeting or all together depending on how much time is scheduled for the session. It may be more beneficial to the group discussion if you are able to watch the video together.

DIVE INTO THE WORD

The format for this segment of the study is up to you. When planning the group meeting, please **choose one of the following formats** for addressing the *Dive Into The Word* questions.

- 1.** *Have everyone go through these questions and fill in the answers prior to coming to the meeting. Then, during the meeting, discuss your answers together. Try to dive even deeper and encourage people to share other Scriptures that come to mind. For this option, you can either have people watch the video beforehand or watch it together during the meeting.*
- 2.** *After watching the video during the meeting, ask these questions out loud and answer them together. Give people a little time to write down notes or answers they want to keep. You get to decide how much of the content to cover, and you can even skip straight to the questions if you prefer. Have participants take turns reading the Bible verses out loud if they are willing.*
- 3.** *A custom format of your choice. The material is for you to use as a resource, and you may need to adjust how it's presented in order to best serve your group.*

DISCUSSION TIP

You may need to veer away from the format of this study depending on how your group works, and that's okay. This study is simply meant to be a resource to help your group discuss God's Word together. Don't worry about getting through the whole study or about covering every question. Instead, focus on what God desires to do with the time you have together and make sure you leave room for the Him to minister individually to the members of the group. Bible study is not simply us trying to learn more about God. It's also about allowing God to speak to us and change us.

PRAYER TIME

Pray specifically about the issues addressed in this study. If there is time, ask for specific prayer requests from group members. Depending on the size and nature of your group, you may want to split into smaller groups for the prayer time. If your group is mixed company, you may also consider splitting the men and women into separate groups to help nurture an environment where people feel more free to share specific prayer requests.

DIVE INTO THE WORD

PRIDE vs *Humility*

replacing a law mindset with a grace focus

IS PRIDE REALLY THAT BAD?

It's easy to look at pride as being one of the "lesser" sins, but the Word of God says otherwise. The world often encourages a prideful attitude with statements like, "Look what I've accomplished," but let's see what Proverbs 16:5 says about God's view of pride:

"Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished."

Wow. When we think of abominations, pride probably doesn't come to mind first, but God clearly takes issue with a prideful heart. Why does God see pride as such a bad thing? If you have trouble answering this question, see Ezekiel 28:2.

Read Proverbs 16:18 and Isaiah 2:12. Why does the devil desire us to be operating in a spirit of pride?

What does the Bible say about the devil's ultimate fate? (See Revelation 20:10)

Lucifer's rebellion in heaven was connected to a prideful heart, and because he made the decision to exalt himself over God, he was quickly kicked out of heaven. Jesus actually tells us in Luke 10:18 that He saw Satan "fall from heaven like lightning." God didn't put up with the prideful spirit of the devil for even a moment. Yet, sometimes we get caught up in an attitude that says, "What is God thinking? I know better than that." When we do this, even if we don't realize it, we are exalting ourselves above God in our hearts.

When pride rules our hearts, it's impossible to obey the commandments of God. Why? Pride keeps us from placing God first, and when God is not first, we are breaking the first commandment. Look at what James 2:10 says about keeping the commandments:

"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."

So, if we break the first commandment, we break all of them. Thankfully, Jesus gives us the key to keeping the commandments, and the answer is better than you may think.

A POSITIVE SPIN ON KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS

Read Exodus 20:2-6 and compare it to Matthew 22:34-40. What differences do you see between these two passages? For reference, Jesus' greatest commandment actually comes from Deuteronomy 6:5.

Briefly look at Leviticus 19:11-18. Jesus repeats the phrase, "love your neighbor as yourself" in Matthew 22. Why did Jesus feel comfortable stating this command apart from all of the "thou-shalt-nots" also listed in Leviticus?

The reason Jesus is able to put a positive spin on the commandments is because He came to offer us saving grace. He didn't need to list off all of the "thou-shalt-nots" at this point because He gave us a way to be made new through Him. **When we are being changed by grace and being led by the Spirit of God, doing what's right comes naturally to us.**

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Think about the effects of the new nature of Christ at work in your heart. Are there specific things that have changed since you received Christ?

Remember, we receive the new nature by receiving the grace of God through faith in Jesus. Thank God for His grace, because apart from it, we would all be slaves to sin and law.

PRIDE FIGHTS AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Jesus removes the emphasis from the letter of the law, and He places the emphasis on *the Spirit of the law*. So, if we want to walk in a manner pleasing to God, we've got to be filled with the Spirit, walking in the confident state of righteousness His grace provides.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16. Why would pride keep us from walking in the Spirit?

God desires our hearts to be completely changed by His love. Unlike some things in life, humility isn't a box we can just check off. Whether we are walking in pride or humility is purely a decision of the heart. **It takes an initial humbling for us to receive grace**, but it also takes a willingness for the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts for us to be able to continue walking in a state of humility as we grow in the Lord. That's why James 4:5-6 says:

“Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: ‘He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us’? But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, ‘God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”

Why would we need humility in order to receive God's gift of grace?

Take a moment to examine your heart. Are there areas of your thought life where you need to ask God for the grace to walk in humility? If you feel comfortable sharing, it may help to let someone know what you're struggling with.

Admitting that we have pride can be the first step toward humility. The next step is to repent and ask for forgiveness. Romans 8:3-4 is a great reminder of God's grace for those of us who struggle with pride (that's all of us, by the way).

THE BENEFITS OF HUMILITY

When we repent and lay our sins down at His feet, God reminds us of the fact that His amazing love has already covered our mistakes. When our mistakes are covered by grace, we get to walk in the freedom of Christ.

Read | John 5:3. Have you ever felt that God's commandments are too burdensome? If so, in what ways?

Have there been times when you've noticed Jesus working through you?

When we walk in humility, trusting fully in what Jesus did on the cross, God gives us the power to follow His commandments through the fellowship and leading of His Holy Spirit. James 4:10 says:

"Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you."

Read **2 Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 11:2, and 1 Peter 5:5**. What things does God provide for the person who chooses to walk humbly before Him?

The greatest way that we know we have received the favor of God is that we get to claim His righteousness as our own. Part of having freedom in Christ means that we're not afraid of making a mistake. This doesn't mean we view sin flippantly. It simply means we understand the height of God's love for us and the transforming power of grace.

Finish by reading 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Let God lift the burdens off of your shoulders today. Give Him access to your heart. Trust Him. No matter where you find yourself in this moment, His grace is enough.

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