



Small Group Leader Study Notes

BOTTOM LINE:

Humility - The measure of humility is how we treat one another.

MEMORY VERSE:

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6 (NLT)

BIBLE STORY

The Pharisee & the Tax Collector

Jesus tells a parable about two men, one a Pharisee and one a tax collector. They were praying in the temple and the Pharisee was loud and condemning the other man. The tax collector knew that he was not a good person, but he quietly prayed and asked God to forgive him. Jesus asked, “Whose prayer was answered?” The tax collector, because the Pharisee was not praying to God, he was talking to himself.

READ THE BIBLE

Luke 18:10-14

Your Notes



FRUIT

Lesson 3: Humility

Humility and Gratitude are closely related. Humility is not low self-esteem; rather it is recognition of my gifts and a grateful heart toward my heavenly Father who gave me my talents. When I truly understand how valuable I am to the Lord and the price that He paid for me, my response is one of total gratitude.

Humility is the opposite of pride. The Apostle James wrote, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (NLT)

Pride can hinder our worship. Perhaps you are concerned about what others think of you, so you don’t sing or lift your hands in worship. When we do this, we push God away. A humble person is not concerned with what others think about how they communicate their love to God.

Money causes people to be prideful. God is not opposed to His people having money, but He does not want money to have you. A prideful person says, “I earned this money and it’s mine to do with as I choose.”

When you bring your tithe to God, it is an act of humility. You are saying to God, “I recognize that you are the source of all my money.” When we teach our kids to tithe, we are teaching them humility.

The measure of our humility is how we treat one another. I think most of us understand that God is greater than us. It’s a lot harder to humble ourselves with our brothers and sisters in Christ. “For anyone who does not love his brother

whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.” 1 John 4:20

“It is a solemn thought that our love for God is measured by our everyday relationships with others.” **Andrew Murray**

Our humility toward others is the only real proof that our humility before God is real. The daily tests of character that we experience every day are also tests for eternity, because they prove what spirit possesses us.

Here are some good questions to ask:

- Are you happy when good things happen to other people?
- Do you tend to use your words to ‘dis’ someone else?
- Are you “quick to anger” if someone offends you?
- Are you OK if you don’t get recognition for something that you did?
- Do you tend to defend yourself if you get corrected?

If you have trouble with any of these things, ask the Holy Spirit to help you and He will.

In summary, there are three points to cover with your kids.

1. Humility and gratitude are closely related.
2. Humility is the opposite of pride.
3. The measure of our humility is how we treat one another.

BIBLE STORY

The Pharisee & The Tax Collector

READ THE BIBLE

Luke 18:10-14

THE STORY

- Jesus tells a story about two men in the Temple.
- One was a Pharisee - religious businessman.
- One was a tax collector - a fellow Jew who worked for the Roman government collecting taxes. They were often greedy.
- They both stood praying.
- The Pharisee began to loudly tell God all of the good things that he did and how good he was.
- The tax collector knew that he was a bad person, but wanted to change. He quietly prayed to God to forgive him.
- Jesus ended the story by asking whose prayer was answered.
- The Pharisee was not praying but simply talking about himself to God. His heart was not right with God.
- The tax collector was humbled and really wanted to change, and knew the only way was with God's help.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. Why did Jesus tell the story of the two men - the Pharisee and the Tax Collector? (He wanted us to see that a measure of our humility is how we treat one another)
2. What is the opposite of humility? (pride)

SMALL GROUP LESSON

Say Something Nice

BOTTOM LINE:

We can always find nice things to say about others.

PROPS NEEDED:

A container.
Paper & pen.

HERE IS WHAT YOU DO:

- Write the names of each child, and your name, individually on a piece of paper.
- Fold the pieces of paper and put them in a container.

HERE IS WHAT YOU SAY:

- You may have heard this saying, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything."
- Learn how to say nice things about people instead of mean things, or even the first thing that comes in your head.
- The Bible tells us, "For anyone who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen." 1 John 4:20
- That means that if you can't get along with the people that you can see, you don't really love God.
- Even if you don't know someone, you can find something nice to say.
- They have a nice smile, or a nice shirt, or cool shoes, or are always happy.
- Today, we are going to practice, "Saying Something Nice." Pick out a piece of paper with someone's name on that piece of paper. Then say something nice about them.
- Small Group Leader - Pick a name out of the container and show

AFTER "SAYING SOMETHING NICE"

- You can always find something nice to say.
- Sometimes we need to put a guard on our mouth, because the first thing that comes into our head should not come out of our mouth.
- Pride wants us to think only of ourselves and to put others down in the process.
- Humility is measured by how we treat others. Are you happy when good things happen to other people? Do you tend to use your words to 'dis' someone else? Are you "quick to anger" if someone offends you? Are you OK if you don't get recognition for something that you did? Do you tend to defend yourself if you get corrected?

ASKING POINT FOR KIDS:

1. When you put someone else down, are you walking in humility? (no)
2. How do you walk in humility? (say kind things about others, be happy when good things happen to others, if someone makes you upset don't get angry)