

Pride

Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Describe an accomplishment you were proud of as a child.
2. What's your favorite dessert?

Read the following passage: Luke 7:36-50.

The Pharisees were generally well-respected by the Jewish people in the first century. They were devout, self-disciplined, educated, and moral. But they were not immune from pride. This should serve as a caution to us. Pride can be surprisingly difficult to eradicate from our hearts. In fact, just exposing pride can be a challenge. The following are signs that pride may be dwelling in our hearts.

- We're critical.
- We're self-absorbed.
- We don't ask for help.
- We justify ourselves.
- We think we are entitled.
- We're unloving.

Jesus told Simon (the Pharisee) that a humble, loving heart is produced by the grace and forgiveness of God. There is no other path to a transformed heart.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Read Galatians 6:3-5. What is the difference between a healthy "pride" and the pride that is consistently condemned in other places in the Scriptures?
2. In your observation, how were humility and security modeled in Jesus' life?
3. Read Matthew 23:1-12. Describe some of the ways that pride manifested in the lives of the Pharisees. Do you see any of these characteristics emerging in our cultural context?
4. Consider the six signs of pride listed above. Which of these characteristics most regularly appear in your own life? Explain.
5. At the end of the passage we began with (Luke 7:36-50), Jesus commends the sinful woman's faith. Explain how pride can be an obstacle to faith in God. How might humility promote greater faith in God?

6. Read Romans 3:21-28. How does the Gospel undercut any boasting we may be prone to?
7. Read Luke 22:24-27. One of the ways to keep pride at bay and to embrace God's grace in our lives is to deliberately choose to do humble things. What might this look like practically?
8. Read Romans 13:9. Simon the Pharisee focused on his moral record in comparison to the sinful woman's moral record, but Jesus focused on their love. How well do you feel you are loving others?

Pray