

### **Warm-up Question or Activity**

*Choose one and discuss as a group.*

1. Activity 1 – Lightning round – keep it fun.
  - Folks will often describe a child or family member as having “done y’all proud” by their accomplishment or behavior.
  - **Think of something for which your mom or dad was or became proud of you.**
2. Question 1 – **What was the “lowliest” job you ever had?**
  - Where? When (what age)?
  - Keep it fun – tell us something unusual or interesting or humbling about it.

### **Can You Relate?**

In this week’s Scriptures, our heavenly Father counsels his children on the peril of pride and the utility of humility.

1. The best advice on life’s lessons comes from our own lived experience. If you were asked by one of your children or a younger adult to **give the best example from your life on the peril of pride**, would you be emptyhanded? What example would you give from your own life (not someone else’s)?
  - As you talk through your example, try to get to (and articulate) the root cause. Here are some common examples.

Vanity	Resistance to change
Self-deception	Not wanting to release control
Self-righteousness	Needing to be in control
Stubbornness	Believing in oneself instead of believing in God
Arrogance	Fear
2. The painful truth about authentic, abiding humility is that it comes most often after a humbling (e.g., Moses’ move from palace prince to desert sheep-herder)(Ex. 2:15; Num 12:3). Yet, as God provides growth after pruning, so to He offers wisdom after a humbling (Prov 11:2).
  - **Let’s talk about humbling events in our lives – and look for the humility and wisdom that came out of them.** Think of an example from your life – they usually involve some sort of miscalculation, human error, or moral failure (e.g., anger, dishonesty, greed, lust, pride).
  - As you share an example (under the Group’s pledge of confidentiality within the Group), let’s press through to try to find humility and wisdom that flowed from it.
3. Let’s do “best & worst” for how we relate to our kids and grandkids and other youngsters in our sphere of influence. It is said that kids/youth are “lousy listeners but meticulous observers.” They may not do what you say, but they see what you do.
  - If a kid were shadowing you in recent weeks/years:
    - What’s the best that he/she would have seen that models humility?
    - What’s the worst that he/she would have seen that reflects pride?

4. Centuries of Christian teachers (e.g., Augustine, Aquinas, Calvin, C.S. Lewis, and John Stott) seem to agree that pride is the root of sin.

*"Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind..... "* C.S. Lewis

Yet, like "fear," you won't find this topic we're studying ("pride") listed in the Ten Commandments (Ex 20). Nor will you find "humility" listed in the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

- **What's up with that?**
- Do you think this is an example of the richness of God's Word – that comes through a lifestyle of daily devotion and learning and growing in our knowledge of what the Word offers? Or perhaps something else?
- Does that touch your heart with a hunger for growing in His Word?

### **Live It Out**

**Let's go into this week with our hearts tuned to see pridefulness in our lives.**

- What do you want to take away from this discussion? How can you apply or build upon it in the week or months ahead? Write it down on the paper provided.
- SOAP quiet time journaling is a good starting point for living with more intentionality. This week, consider pledging with one of us to each doing SOAP quiet time for seven days in a row, lifting one another up in prayer, and texting one another for accountability and support as we go through it.
- Try this experiment in making every day count a little bit more.
  - **How?** At least one day this week, before you get out of bed, pick up your phone or tablet and play *Our God (is Greater)* by Chris Tomlin. Absorb the lyrics. Play them back in your head throughout the day. If you do not have that song on your phone, you can find it easily on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJpt1hSYf2o>
  - **Report back** next week on how that went.

***Encourage one another to commit time to praying for one another, encouraging and meeting one another's needs, fellowshiping together, interceding for one another. Contact absent group members and encourage them to continue to meet and to return together at the next scheduled gathering.***