

Part 5:

Big Idea

We all want to be respected, but not all of us know how to get there. In fact, in attempts to gain respect, many of us often do what will garner the opposite response from others. Our natural impulse is to take the thing we're after; if we want to be seen as worthy of going first, we run to the front of the line. In Luke 14, Jesus encourages us to instead humble ourselves, because the one who becomes humble is the one that others (and God) will exalt. It's difficult to show humility when in the presence of someone to whom we feel superior, and it's often equally difficult to admit that we might have a blind spot. Our human nature fights against humility. But while humility is counter-intuitive, it is the kingdom principle by which all of God's blessings flow. If we learn to embrace humility, we will receive blessing! To develop a spirit of humility, we must be willing to listen to others, learn from others, and make decisions with others in mind. It takes grace to walk in humility! God is more than willing to give us this grace if we are willing to lay down our pride.

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:11 (HCSB)

Discussion Questions

- Talk about an area in your life in which you have managed to keep your pride at bay. What steps did you take to develop a humble posture in this situation?
- Humility requires us to listen to others, learn from others, and make decisions with others in mind. Which of these is the easiest for you? Which is the most difficult, and why?
- What are some practical ways you can model humility this week?
- Pastor Willie George said we should avoid making decisions when our pride is hurt. What steps would be needed to make this happen in our lives?

Prayer Focus

Give your pride to the Lord and ask Him to forgive you for the ways that you have exalted yourself. Ask God to give you a heightened awareness to your own mentality and approach to others, praying for a renewed, strengthened mind when it comes to humility. Ask the Lord to show you people in your life with whom you need to take a more humble approach. Ask Him to help you develop a natural desire to exalt and serve others instead of yourself.

Next Step

Take an honest look at the way you approach other people. After a little self-evaluation, write down a few ways that you can listen to others more effectively this week. Write down a few people with whom you want to be intentional by asking questions about their lives. Take a breath before making decisions and consider those who might be affected by your decision.

Leader Tip

Register your Serve Day project if you haven't already and plan an end of the semester fellowship for your group. Give group members the opportunity to share all that God has done in their lives during this semester. Celebrate together!