

WISDOM EMBRACES HUMILITY

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: LIVING IN WISDOM / SERIES: PROVERBS

BIG TRUTH: WISDOM EMBRACES HUMILITY

1 Peter 5:5; Proverbs 3:34; Ephesians 2:3; Philippians 2:3; Colossians 3:12

BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 11:2

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.”

BIG IDEAS

- Humility begins with seeing God for who He is.
- Humility requires seeing ourselves rightly.
- God opposes the proud.

BIBLE PASSAGE: PROVERBS 1:7, 8:13, 30:1-6

KNEEL: LIVING IN WISDOM

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28) and to use our influence to lead others to do the same. We know that as we pursue a life of worship, we will pursue a life of both wisdom and mission. Throughout this year we will study and pursue the wisdom of God through the book of Proverbs and the mission of God through the book of Acts, and we will learn how both of these things must inform and shape our influence as Jesus followers!

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- What wisdom is.
- Why wisdom is worthy to be pursued.
- How to grow in wisdom.



Every student should feel...

- Love for God who gives all wisdom.
- Satisfied and secure in the wisdom of God.
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone.



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the book of Proverbs one time each month.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Repent of the ways they have not pursued God and His wisdom.



Every student should want...

- To fear the Lord and keep His commandments.
- To live their lives in pursuit of true wisdom.
- To guard their heart from all impurity.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: PROVERBS 11:2

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.”

Every person has a prideful flesh nature.

“When pride comes...”

- Pride is present in every person. Our flesh natures are prideful and lean toward a love of self and self-promotion. Humility is not natural to us. Every person has a prideful flesh nature and without the work of the Spirit inside of them, they make decisions based on their pride.
- When pride comes to them, they respond to it. Pride drives them and leads to them to pursue their own fleshly desires. This means that they pursue what makes them look good in the eyes of others. It means they pursue what gives them the best advantage. They pursue their own glory and not God's.

Pride always leads to disgrace.

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace...”

- The question is never “Is pride going to come?” Instead, it is “When is pride going to come?” When pride does come it always brings with it disgrace and struggle.
- Pride doesn't result in harmony with others or give the result that the person truly wants. Pride leads to the fall of a person and brings ruin to their lives. Pride results in disgrace because it puffs up the person and causes them to make poor choices.

Wisdom produces humility.

“...but with the humble is wisdom.”

- Humility and wisdom go together. You do not have one without the other. To grow in wisdom, you must have humility. When you are humble, you grow in wisdom.
- Wisdom leads to a consistently humble life because wisdom teaches and reminds that we are nothing without the power and work of the Holy Spirit inside of us. When we are always operating from this point of view, we will not walk in pride.

BIG IDEA #1: HUMILITY BEGINS WITH SEEING GOD FOR WHO HE IS.¹**[THIS]**

In Proverbs 30:1-6, Agur writes about the nature of God. In these six verses he expounds the character of God when he asks, “Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment?” These questions reveal God’s omnipotence, or His great power over all things. Agur’s questioning of these things reveals that he understands God’s greatness and his own smallness. This is the beginning of humility. Humility does not begin by first seeing how little we are or by thinking less of ourselves. It does not begin by examining ourselves and numbering our inadequacies. If we did that, it would be the opposite of humility and would result in a self-focus and unhealthy fixation upon ourselves. Agur does begin these verses by a declaration that he is nothing more than a human being, but he has arrived at this conclusion by beginning first with God.

[THEREFORE]**What is the folly in pursuing humility by focusing on ourselves too much?**

Hebrews 12:2 tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus who is the perfecter of our faith. Colossians 3:1-2 reminds us to set our minds on things above where our eternal hope is. The folly in focusing too much on ourselves when pursuing humility is that we aren’t the example to follow. Jesus is the example to follow when pursuing humility.

[THIS]

When we begin our pursuit of humility with a pursuit of God, we will find that Jesus is our example of humility. Agur asked his questions in Proverbs 30:1-6 and revealed truth about God’s nature. When we know God and see Him for who He is, we will be humbled. Nothing can compare to God. Man is not like God. We pale in comparison to God. Our knowledge is not like His. Our strength is not like His. We can only hope to achieve certain characteristics in part. This is because we are human and finite, and God is infinite. Seeing God for who He is gives us a clearer understanding of ourselves and leads us to stand in awe of Him. We will be amazed that He even considers us. A right view of God gives us a right view of ourselves. When we see God as the holy Creator, we understand our position and know that humility is our only response.

[THEREFORE]**What characteristics of God help you understand yourself better?**

When we understand who God is, we can in comparison get a better understanding of who we are not. Psalm 18:30, Isaiah 41:10, and Galatians 5:22 help us understand some things about God and ourselves. Knowing these things about God helps us know who we are and who we aren’t.

What are some ways you can see God more clearly to put on humility?

Proverbs 2:6 and 1:7 are good starting places for us to begin seeing God in order to put on humility. Proverbs 15:14 reminds us that when we pursue God, He gives us knowledge and understanding. In order to know God, we must know His Word. As we grow in our understanding of His Word, we will grow in our awe and wonder of who He is. This will help us to see Him for who He is, and the end result will be that we will walk in humility.

1. Proverbs 1:7: Knowing who God is and having a right fear of Him is the beginning of wisdom and that wisdom leads to humility.

BIG IDEA #2: HUMILITY REQUIRES SEEING OURSELVES RIGHTLY.²**[THIS]**

Everyone has a perspective through which we see ourselves and the world around us. This lens, or perspective is shaped by our experiences and the influences on our lives. Our flesh natures influence the lens we use to view the world and ourselves. We naturally view ourselves incorrectly, either thinking too highly of ourselves or too lowly because of our sin natures. No one is born or lives apart from Christ with a right view of himself or herself. Our sin distorts our lens and drives us to one of the two ditches. This produces an unhealthy focus on ourselves. We're either in the ditch of thinking pridefully about ourselves or we are in the ditch of thinking too poorly of ourselves. Regardless, we are still just thinking about ourselves. The remedy to this sin problem isn't to think we are less, but to think of ourselves less often. The solution isn't even to never think of ourselves at all. As God's children, it is most helpful to understand ourselves in relation to God and know our position and place before Him.

[THEREFORE]

Sin leads us to one of two ditches: thinking too highly of ourselves or too lowly. Which of the two ditches do you most often fall into? How can you stay out of these ditches?

Proverbs 30:8-9 reminds us that unless we have a right view of ourselves, we run the risk of living in denial of God. We risk not really knowing Him and having the wrong perspective of life. Romans 7:15-20 shows us that our sin distorts our perception and even controls our actions.

[THIS]

If we are to live humbly before the Lord, we must have a right view of ourselves. To do this we must know who we are created to be and whose image we reflect. By understanding that we are all made in the image of God and that for those who are born again in Christ there is no condemnation, we can live humbly before God viewing ourselves as redeemed sinners. When we understand that if it were not for the grace of God, we would be lost and wandering far from God, we can live humbly before God. This changes everything for us. It helps us live right and true lives. It helps us encounter others in a righteous way because we do not fall into either of the two ditches of thinking too highly of ourselves or too lowly. Instead, we know that though we are sinners, God has redeemed us and in Christ, we are made new creations. This is the good news and is worth rejoicing in. This leads us to submit to and depend upon Jesus for everything.

[THEREFORE]

How does the grace of God lead you to live more humbly before Him?

Matthew 5:3 teaches us that those who are poor in spirit are those who have an understanding of their need for salvation. This knowledge leads us to humble ourselves and live for God in humility. As we see that we are nothing more than sinners, we will live humbly before Him.

How does pride sneak into your daily life? What are some areas that you are tempted to give into pride?

Philippians 2:3-4, Romans 12:16, and Matthew 23:12 teach us that when we seek to promote ourselves or exalt ourselves, we are giving into pride. This leads to our downfall. Pride in ourselves and our accomplishments is the opposite of living humbly.

2. Proverbs 30:1-2: When we really understand ourselves, we will know that we lack understanding and knowledge compared to God. This will produce humility in us.

BIG IDEA #3: GOD OPPOSES THE PROUD.³**[THIS]**

God gave His written Word to His people as a revelation of Himself and a guide for our lives. We have in His Word the story of the world and ourselves. From the Word, we can learn who God is and who we are. From the Word, we learn that God sent Jesus into the world to take on human flesh. Jesus' life and example to us is one of humility. Jesus came and humbly died on the cross for sin that He did not commit. Because God has provided in His Word wisdom and a way for us to learn how to be who He created us to be, and He has given us His Spirit to sanctify us, we are left with no excuse to not become more and more like Him every day. This means that we can know fully that God rejects and opposes the sinfulness that is natural to our flesh natures. Pride is a part of our sin nature. Pride keeps us separate from God and leads us away from Him. God does not rejoice in our pride or find it pleasing. It is displeasing to Him. When we are prideful, we are sinning against Him and not reflecting His true character as His children.

[THEREFORE]

What is the world's view of pride? How does the world promote pride as a way to be true to yourself?

Psalm 10:3-4 shows us that pride does not seek God. Pride boasts in itself and the desires of the flesh. This is the way of the world. It is presented as a way of being true to ourselves. 1 John 2:16 also teaches us that it is these desires that are worldly and common of our flesh natures. These lead us away from God.

[THIS]

1 Peter 5:5 tells us that God opposes the proud. To oppose something or someone is to be against them. We often use this terminology when we are playing sports. One team opposes the other and the goal is for one team to beat the other. Sides are chosen and people cheer for one team or the other. For God to oppose the proud is for Him to be against those who are proud. This means that He is not on the side of the one who lives pridefully. Instead, He is against that person. Throughout Scripture, we see that God exalts those who humble themselves and lowers those who are prideful. This shows us that God works against the proud. The prideful person is not experiencing the full blessing of God. Instead, he or she is walking apart from God and out of His perfect will. Wisdom leads us to humility. Wisdom chooses to walk humbly before the Lord and to oppose pride just as God opposes it. Wisdom knows that being in fellowship with God and waiting for God to exalt you is greater than exalting yourself.

[THEREFORE]

What are some ways that you are often tempted to exalt yourself? How do your insecurities often lead you to boast?

Colossians 3:2 and James 4:2 help us understand that we boast in ourselves when we are focused on ourselves and the things of the world. When we are seeking to make much of ourselves because of our insecurities, we tend to become boastful and prideful. When we think about heavenly things, we are less so.

How does humility place us in a right relationship with God?

Psalm 128:6 shows us that God is far from the prideful. The lowly are near to God. This is because those who are lowly and humble before Him can see their need for Him. When this is the case, they understand they are sinners in need of salvation. This brings us into right relationship with Him.

3. Proverbs 8:13: *God hates pride and prideful speech. It is the opposite of what He desires in His people.*