

Humility 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. If you could instantly have one talent that you don't currently possess, what talent would you choose?
2. If you were to attend a wedding, how likely is it that you would dance at the reception?

Read the following passage: 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

David was the youngest of eight brothers. In the ancient near east, that meant that, among his brothers, he had the least status. And that is why, when the prophet Samuel arrived, David was out tending the sheep. When we find ourselves in circumstances like that today, the temptation is to go in one of two directions. On the one hand, we might decide that we're going to orient our entire lives around getting other people to respect us. Perhaps we have nothing now, but one day everyone will see who we really are and what we've made of ourselves. More often, however, the societal pressure and cultural momentum are just too great. We end up embracing not just an inferior social status, but an inferior view of ourselves.

David didn't take either of those paths. He chose the uncommon path of true humility. And David's humility produced remarkable fruit in his life.

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

1. How would you define humility? Relatedly, what are some common associations with humility that you think are unhelpful? How would you distinguish humility from a personality type or temperament?
2. David repeatedly spoke of himself as the Lord's servant, Saul's servant, and Jonathan's servant. The biblical texts make it quite clear that David did not refer to himself as a servant because he was under-confident or struggled with self-esteem. David's posture as a servant was a fruit of his deep relationship with the Lord. Do you see yourself as a servant of the Lord? If so, is this identity leading you to serve people beyond your own family members? Explain.
3. Read Mark 10:42-45. How is humility connected to leadership? Would you say you are currently pursuing leadership or "greatness" as Jesus defines it? Explain.
4. We may be drawn to other people for a number of reasons: we admire their talent; they have something we want; we share a similar passion. What role does humility play in fostering connection? Conversely, how does pride or arrogance create a barrier to connection?

5. Read Proverbs 12:1. Why is it often difficult for us to receive correction from other people? Do you invite correction from others? Do you get angry with others for not giving you feedback in the way you want to hear it? Overall, how well do you respond when others give you challenging feedback?
6. How can humility help when a conflict is beginning to spiral out of control? What might humility look like in the middle of a conflict?
7. Read 2 Samuel 6:12-23. Contrast David's and Michal's responses to the ark's arrival in Jerusalem. How does humility affect our worship and our joy?
8. What is one way you live with a posture of humility this week?

Pray