

Humility

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**HOW ARE
YOU TEMPTED
TO BUY
INTO THE
CULTURE'S
“LIFE IS
ABOUT ME”
MESSAGE?**

The
POINT ➤

**Consider the needs of others
before your own.**

➤ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the

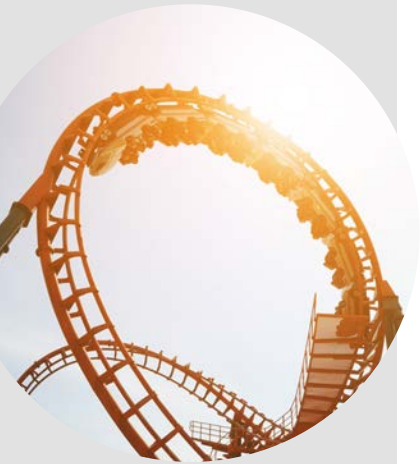
point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

One clear sign of a person who's selfish or self-focused is a disregard for rules. Self-centered people often see themselves as entitled or special, believing rules and guidelines don't apply to them.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

People are created as moral beings and are responsible for their choices and the consequences of their choices, including the ways they treat others.

American culture can be self-focused. We're continually bombarded with messages that tell us to buy the newer and better phone, indulge in the fanciest meals, travel to the most exotic locations, and wear the hottest fashions—all for ourselves! When we think in these terms, we recognize that those priorities might be out of balance. Still, if we honestly and humbly evaluate our lives, there's a good chance we'll find that we buy into this mindset more often than we might like to admit.

Here's the thing: It's not necessarily bad to enjoy the good gifts that life has to offer. However, we're never to receive selfishly and indulgently but with balance and gratitude, using God's blessings on our lives as an opportunity to bless others.

Jesus could have held tightly to the eternal riches that were rightfully His, to His place in heaven and His position as Ruler of creation. But He didn't. Instead, in obeying the Father and in pursuing the salvation of sinners, He gave up His privileged position to bring blessings into our lives. This is true humility, and we're to follow Jesus's example.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

1 In your own words, what is Christian unity?

2 Why is unity so important in the church?

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

3 What is the connection between love and humility?

4 How do ambition and conceit keep us from loving others well?

5 How does Jesus's life serve as the perfect example of humility?

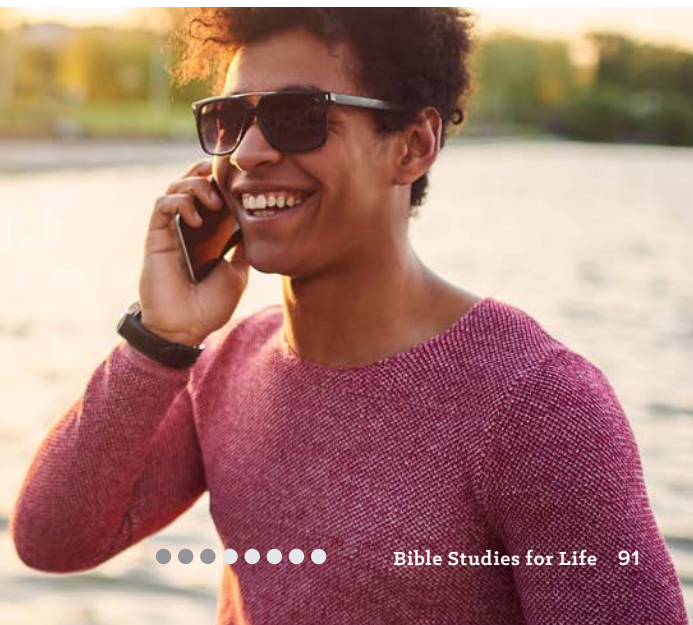
PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

6 How does Jesus serve as an example we are to pattern our lives after?

7 What is humility?

8 Why is humility an essential part of sharing in the glory of Jesus?

True humility is pictured in the life of Jesus and involves pursuing the good of others, even at great cost to ourselves. #BSFLCharacter Counts





LIVE IT OUT

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

People are created as moral beings and are responsible for their choices and the consequences of their choices, including the ways they treat others.

Jesus said the two greatest commands, which sum up the entire law, are to love God with all we are and love others as ourselves. Jesus humbled Himself, stepping out of heaven and coming to earth, as an expression of His love for us. In the same spirit, we are called to love and serve the people around us in humility.

> CHRIST

Philippians 2:7-8 says that Jesus took on the form of a servant and humbled Himself by being obedient, even to the point of dying on the cross for us.

9 How is God calling you to humility by giving up your rights or privileges in order to serve others?

10 Commit this week to living these out.

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

> COMMUNITY

Humility is a characteristic that is expressed in real ways toward the people in our lives.

11 Who has been an example of humility to you through his or her actions?



12 This week, write a note or text thanking this person for his or her example.

> CULTURE

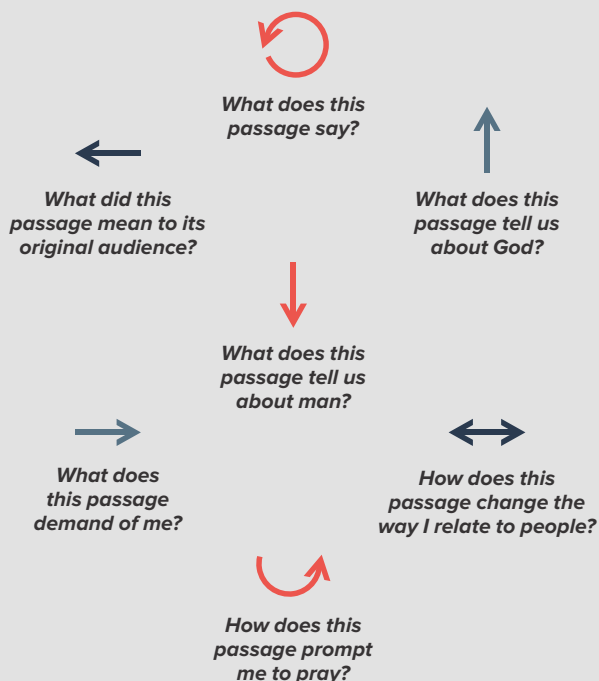
Jesus, the Son of God, left heaven and came to earth to reach the lost as an act of humility.

13 This week, how will you leave your comforts and privileges to serve a non-believing friend or neighbor?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One **JAMES 4:5-6**

In verse 5, James doesn't directly quote the Old Testament but instead refers to a general scriptural principle. Further, the "spirit" isn't an appeal to the Holy Spirit but the spirit of humanity that, in our fallen nature, is inclined toward sin and struggles with finding contentment and satisfaction. In this broken state, people have no hope of being made whole by their own wisdom and strength. For the lost and broken, our only hope is the grace of God. For those who remain proud—who focus on themselves or even try to earn God's favor—they put themselves in a position of opposition toward Him. But for those who are humble and take responsibility for their offenses against God, He is happy to provide grace leading to salvation. Humility versus pride is the difference between experiencing God's blessings and being cut off from His kindness.

➤ **In your own words, what is pride?**

➤ **Why is pride so dangerous?**

Day Two

JAMES 4:7



In the previous verses, we saw that God resists people who are proud but gives grace to those who are truly humble. In our pride and selfishness, it's not natural for us to submit to God. People want what they want, and it's not always easy being told how to live. But we must understand that to resist God is to surrender to the values and practices of the world, which is under the control of Satan (2 Cor. 4:4; 1 John 5:19). God and Satan stand in opposition to one another, and we will submit to one and resist the other. If we choose pride and selfishness, we resist God and His work in our lives. When we choose humility, wholly submitting our lives to God, we resist the devil and put ourselves in the position of receiving God's protection and provision.

➤ **Why is it not always easy to submit to God?**

➤ **How do we actively resist the devil?**

Day Three

JAMES 4:8

We were created to live in close relationship with God and with other people. Sin brought division and cut people off from our intimate connection with God. Yet, through Jesus, God has re-established the connection we were created to enjoy. Earlier, James called Christians to submit to God and resist the devil. Obedience to God and refusing sin is essential in experiencing God's blessings. However, there's much more to a life of faith. We don't simply obey God because we want protection against the devil or because we want God to give us the things we ask for. The greatest blessing God offers His people is a relationship with Himself. We don't obey to earn God's favor. Instead, we obey as an expression of our love for Him. Let's not be double-minded, torn between loving God and loving the world. Let's choose to love God with all we are. Then we'll receive God's greatest gift—Himself!

➤ **Why are we called to resist sin and obey God?**

➤ **What are the greatest blessings you've received from God?**

Day Four

JAMES 4:9

The book of James opens with the call to choose joy, even in the midst of desperate struggles. Now, James says that the church should mourn and weep. On the surface, this doesn't make much sense, so let's break it down. The joy of chapter 1 comes from knowing God is at work in our lives. When we suffer for doing right, we might be tempted to complain, but joy is possible because we know God uses these kinds of experiences to make us mature in Christ. The misery in this verse is the appropriate response when we come to understand that we've been prideful, leading us to sin. In Matthew 5:4, Jesus (who was James's big brother) said that those who mourn will be comforted. Specifically, Jesus was saying that those who mourn the brokenness sin causes, not only in a general sense but especially in their own lives, will receive the comfort found in God's mercy and grace. James told the church to mourn over their sin and repent, and then they would experience God's restoring forgiveness.

- **Why did James call the church to misery, mourning, and weeping?**
- **What practices do you have in place to make sure you're continually confessing and repenting of sin?**

Day Five

JAMES 4:10



The Christian life is to be characterized not by selfishly pursuing our own desires but by looking continually to the needs of others. Jesus said that how we treat the least of these is how we treat Jesus Himself (Matt. 25:40,45). One of the most powerful ways we humble ourselves before God is through serving the people around us. The world constantly tempts us to focus on ourselves—to spend every ounce of our time, energy, and resources on the best clothes, the latest electronics, the tastiest foods, and traveling to the coolest places. Let's be clear—it's appropriate to enjoy God's gifts from a place of humility and gratitude. But humility never focuses primarily on ourselves but looks for ways to use God's blessings to serve others. Let's get our eyes off ourselves and set our hearts instead on God and others. When we follow Jesus with this kind of humility, we can be confident we'll ultimately share in Jesus's exaltation.

- **In your own words, what is humility?**
- **How, in practical terms, do we humble ourselves before God?**