

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL:

THE ENEMY'S PLAYBOOK



PRIDE OF LIFE

5-Day Devotional: Pride of life

Dear Parents,

We are thrilled to share with you this devotional packet, which mirrors the topics and lessons we're covering with our students. This resource is designed not only to help keep you informed but also to empower you to engage in meaningful conversations with your teen about their spiritual journey. We believe that faith is best nurtured when reinforced both in the community & at home. These devotions provide a fantastic opportunity to deepen your connection with your teen, discuss the teachings they're receiving, & explore how these lessons apply to everyday life. We encourage you to set aside time each week to go through these devotions together, ask questions, & share your insights. This shared time can spark powerful discussions & help build a strong foundation of faith in your family. Along with the daily devotion, at the end of this document are the discussion questions that were covered in small group time to help you break down topics on a deeper level. Thank you for partnering with us in guiding our youth toward a deeper relationship with Dylan & Faith Curtis

Day 1: Understanding Pride

Scripture: Mark 9:33-34

"But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest."

We live in a world obsessed with comparison—whether it's sports, careers, or social media followers, we're always measuring ourselves against others. But this mindset reveals the subtle yet dangerous issue of pride. Pride is simply putting ourselves at the center of our lives. It sneaks into our hearts, making us believe we're better than others or even that we're not good enough compared to them.

Reflection:

Think about a time when you compared yourself to someone else. How did it make you feel? Were you puffed up with pride or discouraged? Pray today for God to help you see where pride has taken root in your life and ask for His guidance to remove it.

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Day 2: The Dangerous Effects of Pride

Scripture: Proverbs 16:18

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Pride is the gateway to all other sins because it puts "me" at the center and pushes God out. The Bible warns us that pride leads to destruction. When we think too highly of ourselves, we begin to rely on our own wisdom and strength instead of God's. This is the path to failure because, ultimately, we were never meant to rely solely on ourselves.

Reflection:

In what areas of your life are you relying on your own strength instead of God's? How does that reliance make you feel? Consider how pride may be leading you down paths that aren't aligned with God's best for you.

Day 3: Living with God at the Center

Scripture: Mark 9:35

"If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."

Jesus flips the script on what the world values. In a culture where being the best often means stepping on others to get ahead, Jesus teaches that true greatness is found in humility and service. When God is at the center, we are free to live without the burden of needing to impress others. We no longer need validation from people because we have the ultimate approval from God Himself.

Reflection:

How can you prioritize others this week? Think of one specific way to serve someone without expecting anything in return. Pray for a humble heart that seeks to honor God by serving others.

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Day 4: Free from Comparison

Scripture: Mark 10:42-45

"Whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Jesus' life is the ultimate example of humility. Even though He was God, He came to serve others, not to be served. Pride often leads us to compare ourselves to others, trying to prove we're better. But in God's kingdom, greatness is defined by how much we humble ourselves and serve others.

Reflection:

Is there a part of your life where comparison has stolen your joy? Think about what it would look like to surrender that area to God and find freedom in knowing that He already loves you as you are. Ask God to help you stop comparing and start serving.

Day 5: Humility, The Key to True Freedom

Scripture: James 4:10

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."

Humility isn't thinking less of yourself—it's thinking of yourself less. When we make God the center of our lives, we are no longer trapped in the exhausting cycle of trying to prove ourselves. Instead, we find true freedom in living out the purpose God has given us. We don't have to compete or compare anymore because our worth is already secure in Christ.

Reflection:

Ask yourself, "Where is God calling me to be more humble?" Take time today to pray for the courage to trust God and put Him at the center of every area of your life. Thank Him for the freedom that comes through humility.

Discussion Questions:

Pride of Life

1. What does it mean to have "pride" at the center of your life, and how does it impact your relationship with God and others?
2. In what ways do we compare ourselves to others, and how does this lead to pride or insecurity?
3. How do you personally struggle with the "Pride of Life" in areas such as social media, sports, academics, or friendships?
4. Mark 9:35 says, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." What does it practically look like to be a servant in your daily life?
5. How does pride act as a gateway to other sins, and why is it dangerous to put ourselves at the center?
6. What are some specific areas of your life where you have tried to find your worth or significance outside of God's approval?
7. Jesus said in Mark 10:45 that He came "not to be served but to serve." How can you reflect this servant-hearted attitude in your school, workplace, or family?
8. How does placing God at the center of your life free you from the constant need to prove yourself to others?
9. Can you identify a time when your pride led to a destructive outcome? How could humility have changed the situation?
10. What steps can you take this week to shift from a "me-centered" mindset to a "God-centered" mindset in your thoughts, actions, and relationships?