

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

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Ditching Pride for Humility

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BEGINNING THOUGHTS...

The evangelist preached; the invitation was given. A young preacher went to the altar with a broken heart. After praying and seeking God's face, he stood to address the crowd. We waited with anticipation because we knew how godly this young man seemed and couldn't believe he would have anything to confess. With tears running down his cheeks and a sob in his voice, he told how he had used another man's hammer without first gaining his permission. Not a sound came from the audience as he confessed this *sin* to those listening. Really!... he used a hammer. That admission affected me greatly and has impacted the way I try to live my life. It was a moment I will never forget.

After more than 35 years ago, that night remains ever so clear in my memory. To think a preacher would admit to something some might view trivial was huge. He was truly humble and broken in spirit at that moment. His ministry lasted until he passed away, and as far as I know, he exhibited humility throughout his lifetime. Would that I could live my life with such a high level of integrity.

Humility is not something we are born with. It is developed over the years and is cultivated by prayer and communion with the Holy Spirit. Paul was a humble man. He preached and preached, was beaten and thrown in prison, was shipwrecked and died a martyr's death—beheaded. He never renounced his faith or lost that humility, yet he started out as one who tried to kill those who believed in the very faith he finally embraced. An amazing example of God's grace and mercy, don't you think? If you're not presently a humble person, there's still hope. God can take whomever He chooses and turn her/him into a totally new creature. But we must let Jesus be—LORD, relinquishing control and turning our lives over to Him.



LET JESUS BE

Humility's Perfect Example

POINTER OF TRUTH: “And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:8).

RULE OF THUMB: Jesus Christ is our supreme example of humility, and we can trust his exemplary pattern to follow in our own lives.

JESUS IS LORD Write the *Pointer of Truth* on a 3x5 card. Try to memorize it this week.

JESUS IS LORD Go over p. 34 in *Treasure* as a group, discussing why Jesus is the perfect example of humility. Then answer the questions in *Treasure*, p. 35.

JESUS IS LORD How do these definitions fit in your life? Are you a humble person? —**humility:** the quality or condition of being humble.

—**humble:** 1. marked by meekness or modesty in behavior, attitude, or spirit; not arrogant or prideful. 2. showing deferential or submissive respect.*

JESUS IS LORD Does your church practice feet-washing? If so, do you enjoy it? In what way does this type service indicate a servant's heart? (*Luke 7:44; 1 Timothy 5:10*)

JESUS IS LORD What other characteristics of humility does Christ give us as examples? (*Meekness and gentleness—2 Corinthians 10:1; Patience and consolation—Romans 15:5; Forgiving and forgetting—Colossians 3:13; Zeal for God's work—John 4:31-35.*)

JESUS IS LORD Jesus was free from all worldly pride. How? *Appearance—Isaiah 53:2; Riches—Matthew 8:20; Worldly success (despised and rejected)—Isaiah 53:3; Reputation—Matthew 2:23; Rank—Matthew 13:55.*

JESUS IS LORD Are you happier following Christ's example or your own prideful route?

JESUS IS LORD How did the disciples learn to be humble? (*By following Jesus' example—John 13:6-9.*)

JESUS IS LORD Remember Peter? What did he do the night Jesus was captured? (*Three times denied he knew Jesus—Luke 22:57-61.*) Yet, in I Peter 3:4 read what he wrote. What did Peter develop? (*A meek and quiet spirit*)

JESUS IS LORD Would you have wanted to know Peter before he met Jesus?

GENTLE TOUCH: Use the suggestions listed in this section (*Treasure*, p.35) to dismiss your group.

**The American Heritage Dictionary*



LET JESUS BE

The Blessings of Humility

POINTER OF TRUTH: “Lord, thou has heard the desire of the humble; thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear” (Psalm 10:17).

RULE OF THUMB: Living in humility has a tremendous effect on our quest to become more like Christ. The Word of God also details added benefits and blessings to those who choose to be humble.

JESUS IS LORD Write the *Pointer of Truth* on a 3x5 card.

JESUS IS LORD Go over the questions and answers in *Treasure*, p. 37.

JESUS IS LORD Read aloud the verses in the middle of p. 37. Discuss these blessings.

JESUS IS LORD Why do you think it is so hard to be humble? (*Proverbs 29:23*)

JESUS IS LORD What does God tell us to do? (*Be humble as a little child—Matthew 18:4.*)

JESUS IS LORD Do you like the idea that God dwells with those who possess a humble spirit?

JESUS IS LORD Luke 14:11 tells us that God exalts the person who humbles himself.

JESUS IS LORD What are some of the promises God gives to those who are believers? (*Eternal life—John 3:16; Answers to prayer—Psalm 91:15; Unlimited blessings—Mark 9:23; Provisions—Psalm 37:3; Salvation—Romans 1:16; Spiritual fullness—John 6:35.*)


JESUS IS LORD Are these things part of the blessings in your life?

JESUS IS LORD Can the Holy Spirit help you lead a humble life? (*1 John 2:27; Romans 8:14; John 14:26; Luke 12:12; 1 Corinthians 3:16*)

JESUS IS LORD Reflect on the blessings in these verses: (1) **Sleep**—Psalm 127:2; (2) **Food and mercy**—Psalm 136:25; (3) **Herbs and fruit**—Genesis 1:29; (4) **Living Water**—John 4:14; (5) **Eternal life**—John 10:28; (6) **Power to get wealth /Work**—Deuteronomy 8:18; (7) **Peace**—John 14:27.

JESUS IS LORD The secret to gaining or possessing all of the blessings we’ve discussed lies in the humility exhibited in our lives and dwelling within our hearts. Agree or disagree?

GENTLE TOUCH: Spend a few minutes pondering each question listed in this section on p. 37 of *Treasure*. Dismiss in prayer, thanking God for the blessings in your life.



LET JESUS BE

Indications of Humility

POINTER OF TRUTH: “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering” (Colossians 3:12).

RULE OF THUMB: Humble people differ from prideful people in their motives, thoughts and actions. Evaluating the indicators of humility in our lives can help us see our need for greater obedience.

JESUS IS LORD Write the *Pointer of Truth* on a 3x5 card or in your journal.

JESUS IS LORD Go over all the questions and answers in *Treasure*, p. 39.

JESUS IS LORD The greatest example of humility was Jesus. What were some indicators that He possessed? (1) **Obedience**—Philippians 2:8; (2) **Servants’ heart**—John 13:5; (3) **Lowliness**—Zechariah 9:9; (4) **Meekness**—Matthew 11:29; (5) **Loving**—John 15:12; (6) **Faith**—Revelation 14:12.)

JESUS IS LORD Do you “put on” or clothe yourself with compassion (mercy), kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (longsuffering), forbearance, and forgiveness as Colossians 3:12-13 tells us?

JESUS IS LORD What is compassion? (*A sense of sympathy or empathy with someone; feeling merciful toward them.*)

JESUS IS LORD What comes next? (*Kindness—an action that reveals compassion. It can be a smile, a kind word, offer of help, or a pat on the shoulder.*)

JESUS IS LORD Humility is mentioned next. Why is this the chief Christian virtue? (*Because it’s the opposite of the worst of sins, which is pride.*)

JESUS IS LORD Meekness or gentleness are the exact opposite of what? (*Rudeness and abrasiveness. Know anyone with those qualities? Shhhh-don’t say anything!*)

JESUS IS LORD Can we endure someone’s exasperating conduct without getting angry? (*This is patience or longsuffering.*)

JESUS IS LORD Another great Christian quality is forbearance. What does this mean? (*It is to uphold, encourage and support others.*)

JESUS IS LORD Forgiveness. Why is this last quality so important? (*Because we are to forgive as the Lord forgave us.*)

GENTLE TOUCH: Pray you will exhibit these humility indicators in your life.



LET JESUS BE

Living in Humility

POINTER OF TRUTH: “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (John 13:15-17).

RULE OF THUMB: With Christ as our example and the Spirit and the Word as our guide, we can live humbly before God and others. We must take measures to remain humble, knowing God has the power to humble us if we do not humble ourselves.

JESUS IS LORD Write the *Pointer of Truth* on a 3x5 card or in your journal.

JESUS IS LORD Go over all the questions and answers in *Treasure*, p. 44.

JESUS IS LORD *Servant* is a key word in our Pointer of Truth verse. What are the duties of a servant? (1) **Obedience**—Ephesians 6:5; (2) **Respect for masters**—1 Timothy 6:1; (3) **Faithfulness**—Colossians 3:22; (4) **Desire to please**—Titus 2:9; (5) **Patience in hard places**—1 Peter 2:18.

JESUS IS LORD Do you consider yourself a servant according to the above duties? In what area(s) do you need to gain humility?

JESUS IS LORD Prophets of God were called “God’s servants” and “men of God.” Let’s look at some of them: (1) **Elijah**—1 Kings 17:18; 18:36; (2) **Moses**—1 Chronicles 6:49; (3) **David**—2 Chronicles 8:14.

JESUS IS LORD Are these titles limited to men of the Old Testament? (No—2 Timothy 3:17; 1 Peter 2:15-18; James 1:1.)

JESUS IS LORD Why is it important to be a servant and man (woman) of God?

JESUS IS LORD Do you think of others before yourself?

JESUS IS LORD Paul exhorts readers in 2 Corinthians 5:17 to live as new creatures in Christ. What does he say to “put off” in Colossians 3:9? (*the old man*) Why? (*The old life is self-centered, praise-loving, and prideful.*)

JESUS IS LORD All the qualities in Section Three of this study are bound together in perfect unity by what one quality? (*Love—Colossians 3:14; Matthew 22:39.*)

JESUS IS LORD Why can we love others? (*Because God loves us—John 13:35; 15:12.*)

GENTLE TOUCH: Dismiss, asking God to help you live in humility and love.

WRAPPING UP...

No one ever lived a more perfect, sinless life than Jesus. He didn't have a prideful bone in His body, yet He walked this earth among multitudes of people without yielding to temptation and pressures. His humbleness drew many to Him and provided an example of righteous living for everyone, back then and today.

Can we achieve humility on our own? Not a chance! We must rely on the Word of God and the Holy Spirit's help to guide our thoughts, mouths, and actions. Humility comes from disciplined strength. It's the **JOY** acrostic in reality. Put **J**esus first, **O**thers second and **Y**ourself last. Only through Him can we live victorious, blessed lives.