

~~Pride~~

KIDS of
INTEGRITY

Humility



Can you make snow? Will pride cause you to stumble? What's it like to be famous? Try these activities to find out!

Take your pick of some fun activities that help children:

- recognize that everyone has different strengths, and that these are gifts from God
- acknowledge their failings and need of God's help and forgiveness
- apologize to others, accept advice, and receive compliments graciously.

This lesson also helps address self-centredness, self-righteousness, a know-it-all attitude and poor sportsmanship.

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Parents' prayer

Before you begin leading your children through this lesson, spend time alone with God interceding for His help. Ask Him to help you grow in humility, and to release His power in your kids.

Use the sample prayer below to guide you, or build your own prayer using the verses provided under "Scripture-guided prayer."

Sample prayer

Lord Jesus, Your life here on earth was the essence of humility. You are fully God, yet humbly You chose to limit Yourself to the confines of a human body. Despite being in nature God, You did not demand equality with God, rather You were willing to be made "nothing." In taking on human dimensions to Your person, You willingly became God's servant. Because of Your humble obedience, You endured a horrendous and painful death on the cross to ensure the whole world gained salvation (Philippians 2:8, Hebrews 9:28). God honoured Your humility through exalting You to the highest place and giving You the name that is above every name. I rejoice knowing that someday every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that You, Jesus Christ, are Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11). What a privilege it is to live each day with You as my gentle and humble Saviour (Matthew 11:28-30).

Jesus, You are Lord of All, Lord of our home and Lord of my heart. What an honour it is to be called Your child and what a privilege it is to pray. It is because of Your grace and forgiveness that I am free to be in Your presence. I know those who are arrogant cannot be close to You (Psalm 5:5). Lord Jesus, please help me to recognize any pride in my heart – whether it shows up as self-centeredness, unforgiveness, ungratefulness and even self-pity. Pride, the sin of being overly focused on "me and my needs," seems to be one of those sins that sneak up on me so easily. I humbly acknowledge my weak and sinful human tendencies and ask for the good gift of Your Holy Spirit to replace my selfish pride with a willingness to serve and honour others instead of myself. I want our kids to grow up witnessing me readily admitting my mistakes and asking for forgiveness. Please let them

see in me an attitude that says, “without God I can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Lord, those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted (Matthew 23:12). If there is any pride in my children’s hearts, I ask that You will reveal it and give _____ and _____ a desire to get rid of it. I pray that, even in their youth, they will be willing to put others first. I ask that _____ and _____ will realize how much they have to learn so they will be teachable and willing to learn Your ways (Psalm 25:9). Most importantly, I pray that they will recognize their own sinfulness and see their need for forgiveness. Please help them to understand that, in Your kingdom, humility comes before honour (Proverbs 29:23).

In our home we honour You as King and promise to serve You and others, not ourselves. It is because of Your kindness, love and mercy that we are saved, through the washing of Your Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4-5). In humility we pray “not to us, but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness” (Psalm 115:1). It is our desire to honour You by having servant hearts like Yours, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Scripture-guided prayer for parents

Read and pray through one or more of the selected Scriptures under each heading. Focus on listening to God and allowing His Spirit to direct you as you pray.

Character focus

Begin by thanking Jesus for His humility and acknowledge that He is worthy of praise, honour and glory.

Psalm 103:13-19 | Psalm 113:4-6 | Isaiah 2:10-21 | Isaiah 57:15 | Philippians 2:8-11

Heart search

Acknowledge the areas where you are tempted to be proud.

1 Samuel 2:3 | Psalm 36:2 | Psalm 101:5 | Proverbs 27:2 | Jeremiah 9:23-24

Gratitude

Thank God for ways you have seen humility demonstrated in your family.

Family requests

Ask God to help you and your children be humble.
Psalm 25:9 | Proverbs 3:5-8 | Colossians 3:12 | Titus 3:1-2 | 1 Peter 5:5-6

Kids talk with God

These sample prayers all begin with “Dear God,” however, you may use any other names for God your children are comfortable with (i.e. Jesus, Father God, Lord Jesus, Heavenly Father, Abba Father, Lord).

If your children are ready to pray original prayers, you may wish to use the Bible verses provided under “Scripture-guided prayer for children.”

Sample prayers

Dear God, You are the Lord of this universe. You placed the stars in the sky and You know them all by name (Isaiah 40:26). Please help me remember to give You the honour You deserve. Amen.

Dear God, thank you for loving me enough to die for my sin. Amen.

Dear God, it’s so easy to be proud. Please remind me that You prefer it when people are humble. Amen.

Dear God, when someone compliments me, please help me to honour You with the compliment instead of becoming proud of myself. Amen.

Dear God, when I am tempted to try and do things on my own, please remind me that You can help me in any situation. Amen.

Dear God, please teach me to trust in You instead of myself. Amen.

Dear God, You are so wise. Please give me a humble heart that is willing listen to You. Amen.

Dear God, please help me be willing to take advice from others. Amen.

Scripture-guided prayer for children

Read through one of the selected Scriptures under each heading and help your children pray based on the verse you read. Encourage them to listen to God and allow His Spirit to guide them as they pray.

Character focus

Begin by thanking Jesus for His humility and acknowledge that He is worthy of praise, honour and glory.

Deuteronomy 7:9 | 2 Samuel 22:31-34 | Psalm 59:16

Heart search

Acknowledge when and how you are tempted to be proud.

Psalm 78:19-22 | Proverbs 28:26 | 1 Peter 5:7

Gratitude

Thank God for ways you have seen humility demonstrated in your family.

Personal requests

Ask God to help you, your siblings and your parents to be humble.

Psalm 25:9 | Proverbs 16:20 | Colossians 3:12

Speak a blessing

Your affirmation can be a tremendous motivator for your children as they strive to become more humble. Use this section as a reminder to “speak a blessing” when you see evidence of this godly characteristic.

- _____, you showed humility when you _____ (name the circumstance).
- _____, you are showing that you trust God when you ask for His help.
- _____, I was pleased to hear you say, “I’m sorry.” It shows that you are humble.
- It’s hard to say sorry when we make mistakes. I’m glad you are humble enough to admit when you have done wrong.

- I was so pleased when you were humble about _____ (name the circumstance).
 - God is pleased when your heart is humble, just like Jesus’ (Matthew 11:29).
 - A wise person listens to advice (Proverbs 12:15). Good job listening, _____!
 - When you are humble, you are being like Jesus.
-

Memory verses

Memorizing Scripture with your children helps God’s Spirit bring about lasting change. Choose a verse that your children can learn in a pre-determined period of time and aim to review the verse at least once every day.

Psalm 10:4 “In his pride the wicked man does not seek Him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.”

Psalm 18:27 “You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.”

Psalm 25:9 “He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.”

Psalm 101:5 “Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate.”

Psalm 149:4 “For the Lord takes delight in His people; He crowns the humble with victory.”

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs 3:34 “He mocks proud mockers, but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.”

Proverbs 8:13 “To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.”

Proverbs 11:2 “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”

Proverbs 13:10 “Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.”

Proverbs 16:5 “The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.”

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 16:20 “Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.”

Proverbs 18:12 “Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.”

Proverbs 19:20 “Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.”

Proverbs 21:4 “Haughty eyes and a proud heart – the unplowed field of the wicked – produce sin.”

Proverbs 27:2 “Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.”

Proverbs 29:23 “Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor.”

Isaiah 25:11b “God will bring down their pride despite the cleverness of their hands.”

Isaiah 57:15 “For this is what the high and exalted One says – He who lives forever, whose name is holy: ‘I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’”

Jeremiah 9:23-24 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have understanding to know Me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the Lord.”

Matthew 23:12 “For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Romans 12:3 “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”

2 Corinthians 11:30 “If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.”

Ephesians 4:2 “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves . . .”

1 Peter 5:5b “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.’”

1 Peter 5:6 “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.”

James 4:10 “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

Kick-off craft

In this kick-off craft activity, you'll help your children make a poster with two trees on it. One tree will represent pride and the other will represent humility. This is a long activity so you may want to work on your trees over the course of a few days or just pick a few applicable "fruit" (character traits) to discuss with your children.

Since human nature is sinful or "rotten," you'll begin with negative character traits. Throughout your study on humility, you'll be working toward replacing prideful thoughts and actions with humble attitudes.

Rotten fruit and good fruit

Directions

You will need the following supplies:

- poster paper
- yarn (or something equivalent for roots)
- felt, yarn, pipe cleaners or anything green and fluffy to serve as grass
- brown construction paper for tree trunks and branches
- pre-cut coloured shapes for fruit ("rotten" and "fresh")
- felt-tipped markers.

1 At the base of one tree, write "pride." For pre-readers, it's helpful to replace the "I" in pride with an illustration of a human eye.

2 Explain that the "I" in "pride" stands for living life as if it's "all about me!" A proud person thinks and says things like, "I'm the best;" "I know everything;" "I am more important than you." Remind your children that what we do comes from what we think. The "fruit" in our lives is our actions. Just like a tree grows fruit from the water and food that comes from the tree's roots, the way we act is rooted or based on what we believe.

3 Read through the verses provided on the following chart and have your children listen for and name the "rotten fruit" that is mentioned. For example, in Mark 9:33-35, the sinful behaviour (the "rotten fruit") is selfishness or wanting to be first.

4 Once your children have identified the sinful behaviour, write it on a pre-cut rotten fruit shape and glue it on the tree marked "pride." See if your children can identify prideful "root" thoughts and possible resulting actions that might be associated with each rotten fruit.

5 As you work through each verse, name each sinful fruit and continue to add more "rotten fruit" to your tree. *See chart of "fruit" for your pride tree.*

6 Read Revelation 3:15-16 together. "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Now use the discussion questions to transition into adding fruit to the second tree.

Discussion questions

- Would you eat a rotten banana? (Ideally you will have an over-ripe piece of fruit to offer your children.)
- If you got a chunk of this fruit in your mouth by mistake, what would you want to do?
- How do you think God feels when He sees us with rotten attitudes?
- Do you enjoy being around people who _____? (Name an attitude or action from the tree of rotten fruit.)

7 Now begin to make the "humility tree." Draw a crown at the base of the tree and tell your children that the person who owns this tree believes that Jesus is King.

8 Explain that when we believe that Jesus is King, it changes the way we think and act!

Chart of “fruit” for your pride tree

Bible verses	Name of fruit	Prideful thoughts	Resulting actions
Mark 9:33-35 “They came to Capernaum. When He was in the house, He asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the road?’ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’”	Selfishness Greed	“I’m more important than you.”	Insisting on being first. Wanting the best for oneself.
Proverbs 28:25 “The greedy stir up conflict, but those who trust in the Lord will prosper.”	Greed Selfishness	“I deserve to have everything my way.”	Refusing to share with others.
Psalms 36:1b-2 “There is no fear of God before their eyes. In their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin.”	Self-righteousness	“I never do anything wrong.”	Refusing to say, “I’m sorry” and unwilling to ask forgiveness.
1 John 1:8 “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”	Pride	“I’m perfect.”	Refusing to admit faults or wrongdoing.
Romans 12:3 “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”	Poor Sportsmanship	“I’m better than you.”	Overly upset when losing at a game.
Proverbs 27:2 “Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.” Matthew 23:12 “For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”	Pride	“I’m the best.”	Bragging about how wonderful you are.
Proverbs 12:15 “The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.”	Foolishness	“I know everything.”	Refusing to take advice or being unwilling to listen to others.

Read through the Bible verses listed below and have your children name the “Jesus-honouring fruit” that is mentioned in the verse. As your children share their ideas for this good fruit, have them choose “fresh” fruit cut-outs to hang on the humility tree. *See chart of “fruit” for your humility tree.*

9 Use the following questions to review key concepts about humility.

Discussion questions

- Which person would you like to have as a friend: someone who grows fresh fruit or someone who grows rotten fruit?
- Which kind of fruit do you want to grow in your life?
- If we don’t have Jesus’ love in our hearts, what kind of fruit are we more likely to have?
- Who can help us grow fresh fruit?

Chart of “fruit” for your humility tree

Bible verses	Name of fruit	Humble thoughts	Resulting actions
1 Corinthians 10:24 “No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.”	Consideration Thoughtfulness	“We are all important to God.”	Willing to let others go first.
Acts 20:35b “. . . Jesus Himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”	Kindness Generosity	“God wants us to share His love with each other.”	Willing to share with others.
James 5:16a “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”	Humility Willing to admit and confess sin	“Sometimes I sin or do wrong.” “I sometimes make mistakes.”	Willing to admit faults. Willing to say, “I’m sorry” and ask forgiveness.
Colossians 3:13-14 “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”	Graciousness Patience Love	“No one is perfect. God forgives me and I should forgive others.”	Lets little things slide instead of getting upset with others.
Psalm 133:1 “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Romans 12:18 “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”	Choosing to live in peace or harmony	“Life is more fun when we choose to get along.”	Politely accepts winning. Loses without whining.
Proverbs 19:20 “Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.”	Teach-ability Attentiveness	“I still have a lot to learn.”	Being willing to accept advice and listen to constructive comments.

10 Remind your children that, if we don’t have Jesus’ help, our sinful human natures will lead us to grow “rotten fruit.” If we want to produce “Jesus fruit,” then we need to ask His Holy Spirit to live in us and help us to live and love others like Jesus did. When we do grow Jesus fruit, God is pleased and others find us much more pleasant to be around.

11 Let your children know that you will be watching for Jesus fruit in their lives. When you notice some “fresh fruit,” instruct that child to pick one piece of rotten fruit off the tree and put a fresh fruit on the other tree instead. The goal is to get all the rotten fruit picked off and replaced with fresh fruit

12 Pray with your children and ask the Holy Spirit to wash any pride out of your hearts and your home so that your family can grow Jesus fruit.

13 Write your memory verse of the week on the poster. During the time you are studying humility, you can refer to the fruit trees as a tool for discussing both positive and negative behaviours and attitudes. Each time you visit your tree to check on your fruit, you can also review your memory verse.

Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 1:29-33 “. . . since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord. Since they would not accept My advice and spurned My rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the

fruit of their schemes. For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to Me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”

Galatians 5:16-17,22-26 “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. . . . But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

Bible stories

This section provides Bible stories with the theme of humility, along with questions you can use as a guide for family discussions. Choose one story that is appropriate for your children. Before reading aloud, take a few minutes to review the story. If the Bible passage is too complex for your children, paraphrase the story yourself or use the summary provided under “key concepts.”

A proud king takes a tumble

Read Daniel 4.

This is long story. You may need to shorten it, read it in parts, or have your children act it out with dolls or stuffed animals as you read.

Questions for discussion

1. If you need help, who do you ask?
2. Why do you think people have trouble listening to the advice of another person?
3. What do you think King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was about?
4. Would that dream have scared you?

5. What was Daniel’s advice to King Nebuchadnezzar? (v. 27)
6. Did King Nebuchadnezzar listen to Daniel’s advice? (v. 28-30)
7. What did King Nebuchadnezzar say to let us know that he was proud? (v. 28-30)
8. What was the result? (v. 33)
9. What did King Nebuchadnezzar finally do? (v. 34-35)
10. What did he tell others about his lesson? (v. 37)

Key concepts

King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that scared and bothered him. God gave Daniel the wisdom to understand what the dream meant. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar what the dream was about. He also told the king that he should quit doing wrong and start doing right. But King Nebuchadnezzar did not listen to Daniel’s advice.

One day Nebuchadnezzar was on the roof of his palace bragging about his mighty power and the great house he had built for himself. God spoke from heaven and told Nebuchadnezzar that his bad dream was going to come true. God made Nebuchadnezzar act and live like a wild animal until Nebuchadnezzar decided to give God the respect and honour God deserved.

King Nebuchadnezzar learned his lesson and acknowledged God and praised Him as the Lord of heaven and earth. After this, Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom was given back to him and he told others that he now praised and glorified the King of heaven, “. . . because everything He does is right and all His ways are just. And those who walk in pride He is able to humble” (Daniel 4:37).

The Bible tells us that a wise son listens to the advice of his parents (Proverbs 1:8). God’s plan is that parents will teach their children about Him (Deuteronomy 6:6-8, Psalm 78:4). To gain wisdom, we can ask God for it directly or read the Bible (James 1:5).

Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 1:8 “Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.”

Deuteronomy 6:6-8 “These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.”

Psalms 78:4 “We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done.”

James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

A humble heart and a proud heart

Read Luke 18:9-14.

Note: In Biblical times, tax collectors were known for using their position to cheat others in order to gain wealth for themselves. On the other hand, the Pharisees were the religious leaders of the day. Jesus was not happy with the way the Pharisees were leading, because they were more concerned with making it appear that they were doing everything right, rather than having the right attitude in their hearts (Luke 11:37-54).

Questions for discussion

1. Is it easy to notice when you do something wrong?
2. Is it easier to notice when someone else does something wrong?
3. Is it hard or easy to say, “I’m sorry”?
4. How does the Bible describe the Pharisees?
5. How was the tax collector different from the Pharisee?
6. What kind of attitude did the Pharisee have?

7. What kind of attitude did the tax collector have?
8. Who did Jesus say went away forgiven and “right with God”?
9. Are there times when you are tempted to act like a Pharisee and be the judge of another person?

Key concepts

It is often easier to notice when others are doing wrong than it is to see our own faults. The Bible says that the Pharisees were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else (Luke 18:9). The Pharisee in Jesus’ story was so focused on the tax collector’s sin that he forgot to ask God if he had any sin in his own life.

The tax collector had a humble and repentant heart. He was willing to admit that he was sinful and asked God to forgive him. In comparison, we see that the Pharisee had a self-righteous and proud attitude. He thought the fasting and tithing he was doing made him good enough in God’s eyes and he was unwilling to consider or admit that he was sinful. Jesus said that it was the tax collector who went home forgiven and in right relationship with God, rather than the Pharisee.

Jesus told this story to teach the people that when a person is willing to admit they have sinned and are sorry, God is pleased with their attitude. However, God is not pleased when a person is so busy pointing out another person’s sins and bragging about themselves that they don’t think about their own sinfulness. As soon as we start to judge others, we are acting self-righteous – just like the Pharisee.

Relevant Scripture

James 4:12 “There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbor?”

Solomon's humility and God's response

Read 2 Chronicles 1:1,7-12; 6:10-21; 7:1-3,11-15.

Questions for discussion

1. Let's pretend that you have just been made king of one of the most powerful nations on earth. You also have more royal splendour and riches than any other king. Do you think it would be easy to get just a little bit proud?
2. When God asked Solomon what he wanted, what did Solomon ask God for? (2 Chronicles 1:7-10)
3. What was God's answer? (2 Chronicles 1:11-12)
4. Did God come through with His promise? (2 Chronicles 1:14-17)
5. Solomon did become very rich and very wise. He used some of his wealth to build a palace for himself and a temple for God. After the temple was built, what did Solomon do to dedicate the temple? (2 Chronicles 6:13)
6. Have you ever knelt down to pray?
7. Was Solomon's prayer a proud prayer or a humble prayer? How can we tell? (2 Chronicles 6:14-21)
8. What did Solomon refer to himself as? (2 Chronicles 6:14,19)
9. What did Solomon have to be proud of?
10. What are some things that you are tempted to be prideful about?
11. What are some things that you are not willing to ask help for?
12. What are some things that you have done that God would want you to repent of?

Key concepts

At the outset of this story, we hear that Solomon had been made king of one of the most powerful nations on earth. He had more splendour and riches

than anyone else. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked Solomon if there was anything he wanted. Despite his greatness, Solomon was humble enough to ask for wisdom from God to govern God's people. God was very pleased when Solomon asked for wisdom and told him that because he had asked for wisdom and not riches, honour, a long life or the death of his enemies, God would give him wisdom, *and* all these other things.

With some of the wealth that God gave him, Solomon built a temple to honour God. Solomon prayed to dedicate the temple to God, acknowledging God's greatness and asking God to be merciful and forgiving.

When Solomon prayed, he knelt down in front of the entire assembly of people. (Kneeling demonstrates humility.) Praying shows that we know that we need God's help and that we are willing to listen to God's advice. Humility is acknowledging our own weakness and admitting that we need help from God, just like Solomon did. Pride is refusing to admit our sinfulness and wanting to do things on our own, without help from God or anyone else.

Relevant Scripture

Psalm 25:8-14 "Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in His ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of His covenant. For the sake of your name, Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great. Who, then, are those who fear the Lord? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose. They will spend their days in prosperity, and their descendants will inherit the land. The Lord confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them."

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

A sad story of pride

Read 1 Kings 11:1-13.

In the previous story we heard how pleased God was with Solomon. But as Solomon grew old, he began to disobey one of God's commands. God had specifically told the Israelites that they were not to marry foreign women (Deuteronomy 7:1-4). As odd as it may sound, in Old Testament times it was considered acceptable to have more than one wife.

Questions for discussion

1. What kind of women did Solomon marry?
2. What did Solomon's wives tempt him to do? (1 Kings 11:4-8)
3. What did God say about all of this? And what did God do? (1 Kings 11:9-13)
4. Is there anything in your life that you are tempted to honour more than you honour God?

Key concepts

Even though God had given Solomon so much, Solomon still wanted something God had warned him against. Solomon disobeyed God's command that he was not to have foreign wives. The Bible tells us that Solomon allowed these foreign women to turn his heart away from following God; instead of honouring the one true God, Solomon worshipped the foreign gods instead. God had warned the Israelites that this was exactly what would happen if they married foreigners. God was angry and He told Solomon that He would take his kingdom away from him and give it to someone else.

When we think we have everything we need, it can be easy to become proud and forget that it is God who gives us everything. Like Solomon, we can begin to make our own decisions about what we think is best for us. Thinking that we know better than God does and choosing to disobey His instructions in order to please our own selfish desires, is prideful. When we disobey God's commands and let other things in our lives become more important than He is, this angers God a lot.

Relevant Scripture

Deuteronomy 7:1-4 "When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations – the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you – and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you."

Exodus 20:2-5a "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them . . ."

1 Corinthians 1:26-30 "Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him. It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."

Proud Pharisees

Read Matthew 23:1-12.

Questions for discussion

1. When you line up for an activity, do you wish you could be first in line?
2. What did Jesus say about the Pharisees? (Matthew 23:5-7)
3. What did the Pharisees love? (Matthew 23:5-7)

4. What advice did Jesus give His disciples? What advice do you think Jesus would give to a child who always pushes to get to the front of the line?
5. What advice do you think Jesus would give to a child who often talks about being the best at sports/drawing/reading etc.?
6. What advice do you think Jesus would give to a child who complains about helping out with picking up someone else's toys/dishes/clothes?
7. What advice do you think Jesus would give to you?

Key concepts

Jesus knew that the Pharisees (the church leaders) were not interested in pleasing God, only in gaining honour for themselves. This did not please Jesus. Jesus told His disciples that, in order to please God, they needed to be humble and willing to serve others. Jesus also said, "For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Matthew 23:8-12).

When children fight over the first place in a line up, they are trying to get the best position for themselves. If they tell others how good they are at sports, games, drawing, reading or something else, they are honouring themselves through trying to gain praise from others. God is pleased with us when we choose to honour Him or others instead of ourselves. He gives us this advice in Philippians 2:3-5: He wants us to have the same attitude as Jesus did. Jesus was humble and chose to serve others instead of Himself.

Relevant Scripture

John 12:42-44 "Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God."

Philippians 2:3-5 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In

your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus . . ."

Punishment for the proud

Read Ezekiel 28:1-8 and Proverbs 16:5.

Questions for discussion

1. What did the ruler of Tyre think?
2. Why did he become proud?
3. Did the King of Tyre trust in his own wisdom or in God's?
4. What does God promise to do to the proud?
5. What are the results of being proud?
6. What blessings does God promise for those who are humble?

Key concepts

This prophecy is about the ruler of Tyre. This proud ruler thought he was a god and as wise as a god. The king of Tyre became proud because he had gained a lot of silver and gold through skilful trading. God's response was, "Because you think you are as wise, as wise as a god, I am going to bring foreigners against you . . ."

The Bible tells us that God detests pride and that those who are proud will be punished. On the other hand, God promises to bless a person who listens to instruction and trusts in Him. God disciplines people when they are prideful.

Relevant Scripture

Psalm 18:27 "You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty."

Proverbs 8:13 "To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech."

Proverbs 11:2 "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."

Proverbs 16:5 "The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished."

Proverbs 16:20 “Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.”

1 Peter 5:5b “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.’”

Forgiveness for the humble

Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-5,7-17.

The reading above omits verse six as it contains references to child sacrifice and the occult, which could be frightening and beyond the comprehension of young children.

Questions for discussion

1. What did Manasseh do to anger God?
2. What did God do first?
3. Did Manasseh listen to God?
4. What did God do then?
5. After Manasseh was captured, who did he go to for help?
6. How did God respond when Manasseh humbled himself?
7. The Bible says, “Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God” (2 Chronicles 33:13). What did Manasseh do to honour God?

Key concepts

Manasseh became king of Judah when he was twelve years old. He did many evil things to anger God. Manasseh worshipped foreign gods and built altars in God’s temple for these other gods. God spoke to Manasseh and the people about their sin, but no one listened. In order to get their attention, God brought the King of Assyria and his army to fight against them. The Assyrians captured King Manasseh and took him away.

The Bible tells us that after he was captured, Manasseh humbled himself before God and prayed. Because Manasseh humbled himself, God helped

Manasseh by rescuing him and bringing him back to Jerusalem and restoring his kingdom. To honour God, Manasseh got rid of all the foreign gods and removed their altars from the temple. He rebuilt the altar of God, sacrificed praise and thank offerings to Him, and told the people to serve the Lord, the God of Israel only. Manasseh did wrong, but when he humbled himself, God forgave him and gave him another chance as king. God will forgive us too when we humbly tell Him we are sorry for sinning.

Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 3:34 “He mocks proud mockers, but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

A wise choice

Read 2 Kings 5:1-19.

Questions for discussion

1. What was wrong with Naaman?
2. Who advised him to go to Israel?
3. Why didn’t Naaman want to wash in the Jordan? (v. 12)
4. Who advised him to do as Elisha asked? (v. 13)
5. What might have happened to Naaman if he chose to ignore the advice of his servants or Elisha?
6. How do we know that Naaman knew God was the only God who deserved to be worshipped?

Key concepts

Naaman was a rich and famous man. He was the commander of the army of the king of Aram. But Naaman had a problem; he had an incurable disease called leprosy. Through the servant of his wife, Naaman heard that there was a prophet in Israel (Elisha) who could cure him. Naaman went to Israel, but when Elisha instructed him to wash in the Jordan River seven times in order to be made well, he was

not pleased. Naaman pointed out that all the rivers in his homeland were cleaner.

One of Naaman's servants encouraged him to be humble and follow the prophet's advice. When he did wash in the Jordan seven times, as Elisha told him to do, he was healed of his leprosy. If Naaman had been too proud to listen to the advice of his servants, Naaman would not have been healed. Naaman gave God honour for healing him. He knew that God was the only god who should be worshipped, so he asked Elisha to forgive him whenever he had to go with his master to the temple of Rimmon (a false god).

Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 12:15 "The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice."

Sibling rivalry

Read Numbers 12.

Questions for discussion

1. Are your brothers and sisters good at something that you would like to be good at too?
2. What is it?
3. Why were Aaron and Miriam jealous of Moses?
4. Why was God not happy with them?
5. What does the Bible say about Moses in Numbers 12:3?
6. Why do you think God had chosen Moses, and not his brother or sister, to lead Israel?
7. What was the result of Aaron and Miriam's jealousy?
8. How are jealousy and pride connected?
9. What should you do when you are tempted to want the honour or attention someone else is getting?

Key concepts

Moses was chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. God talked with Moses directly and gave

Moses directions as to how to lead His people to the Promised Land (a new home that God had chosen for them). Even though Moses had the honour of being chosen by God as a leader, he was still very humble.

Miriam and Aaron were Moses' sister and brother. They were jealous of Moses' position of honour and leadership. They envied the fact that God spoke through Moses. Due to their envy, Miriam and Aaron began to say bad things about Moses. This made God mad. He disciplined Miriam by allowing her to get leprosy (a dreaded skin disease).

When we see other people receiving honour from God, we can be tempted to want the same honour for ourselves. For example, if we had a proud attitude, we might think, I'm just as good as that other person. Why isn't God honouring me too?

If we find ourselves desiring the honour that God has chosen to give others, we can remember Proverbs 18:12 (see below). Instead of asking God to honour you in the same way the other person has been honoured, you can pray and ask God to teach you to be humble and to teach you His ways (Psalm 25:9).

Relevant Scripture

Psalm 25:9 "He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way."

Psalm 101:5 "Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate."

Proverbs 18:12 "Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor."

Romans 12:3 "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you."

Creative discipline

Here are some suggestions to help you develop a humble spirit in your children.

For problems with a proud attitude

Biblical basis

1 Peter 5:5b, Proverbs 11:2 and Isaiah 3:16-24.

To complete this creative discipline you will need a “coat of humility.” The “coat of humility” can be a burlap sack with arm and neck holes cut in it. Alternatively, it can simply be an unattractive vest, shirt or coat. The idea behind wearing sackcloth comes from Isaiah 3:24 that says, as a result of pride, instead of fine clothing there will be sackcloth to wear.

Suggested disciplinary action

When a parent notices a child being prideful, gently point out the source of the pride. Explain to your child that they will need to wear the “coat of humility” until you (the parent) sees one of the virtues listed in Colossian 3:12-14 displayed in the child’s life. During the time that they are wearing the unattractive clothing, let your child know that God detests pride even more than they hate wearing ugly clothes (Proverbs 16:5).

Colossians 3:12-14 “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Proverbs 16:5 “The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: they will not go unpunished.”

Affirmation

After the discipline is completed, affirm your child with Proverbs 29:23, “Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor.” Pray with your child, asking that God would forgive them for being proud. Ask that He would replace any pride in their hearts with humility. Continue your prayer, using Psalm 25:4-5 and 9 as a guide. “Please show _____ Your ways, Lord, teach him/her Your paths. Guide _____ in Your truth and teach him/her,

for You are God our Saviour, and our hope is in You all day long. Thank you that You promise to guide the humble in what is right and to teach them Your ways.”

Psalm 25:4-5 “Show me Your ways, Lord, teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.”

Psalm 25:9 “He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.”

Hands-on options

Often we are consumed by the busyness of day-to-day living and we forget to look for opportunities to teach our children God-honouring character traits. These ideas require very little preparation, making it easy for you to share some simple but memorable lessons with your kids. Read over the suggestions at the beginning of your week and choose one or two that will fit your schedule.

Every knee shall bow

any time

During your study on humility, make it a practice to kneel when you pray to physically demonstrate humility before God. You may wish to open your prayer saying, “Dear King Jesus...”

To introduce the concept of kneeling before royalty, you can read one of your children’s favourite stories about princes, princesses, kings or queens. You can also read through your choice of the verses listed below that refer to the long-standing tradition of kneeling to show respect to God. In the New Testament verses it is interesting to note that people who didn’t even know that Jesus was God still knelt down in front of Him.

Relevant Scripture

2 Chronicles 7:3 “When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, ‘He is good; His love endures forever.’”

Matthew 2:10-11 “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and of myrrh.”

Matthew 8:2 “A man with leprosy came and knelt before Him and said, ‘Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.’”

Matthew 9:18 “While He was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before Him and said, ‘My daughter has just died. But come and put Your hand on her, and she will live.’”

Matthew 23:12 “For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Psalms 22:27-28 “All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations.”

Philippians 2:9-11 “Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Power struggle

drive time or any time

To play the game Power Struggle, one person begins by thinking of a small and insignificant animal, like a flea or an ant. The name of this creature is then inserted into the following rhyme:

*Person one: There once was a flea who spoke right out loud,
“I’m so big! I’m so big! I’m as big as that cloud!”*

*Others respond: “Hey, little buddy,” said God with a wink,
“You’re really not quite as big as you think!”*

*I hate to disappoint you, but I have a strong hunch,
There are quite a few others who could eat you for lunch!”*

After everyone else replies with God’s lines, the next person thinks up an animal slightly larger than the previous one. For example, the flea could be followed by a spider. The game continues until the creatures named are as large as dinosaurs.

To add complexity and fun, have each person point to a cloud as they name their animal. The speaker may also choose to speak in a voice that the animal in question might use.

When the game is finished, take a minute to point out that God is bigger and more powerful than all of the creatures named. You can supplement your discussion with any of the verses below. It’s fascinating to read the things God says in the Bible!

Relevant Scripture

Introduction – Job 38:1-7 “Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: ‘Who is this that obscures My plans with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell Me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone – while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?’”

Lions – Job 38:39-40 “Do you hunt the prey for the lioness and satisfy the hunger of the lions when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in a thicket?”

Wild donkeys – Job 39:5-8 “Who let the wild donkey go free? Who untied its ropes? I gave it the wasteland as its home, the salt flats as its habitat. It laughs at the commotion in the town; it does not hear a driver’s shout. It ranges the hills for its pasture and searches for any green thing.”

Ostriches – Job 39:13-18 “The wings of the ostrich flap joyfully, though they cannot compare with the wings and feathers of the stork. She lays her eggs

on the ground and lets them warm in the sand, unmindful that a foot may crush them, that some wild animal may trample them. She treats her young harshly, as if they were not hers; she cares not that her labor was in vain, for God did not endow her with wisdom or give her a share of good sense. Yet when she spreads her feathers to run, she laughs at horse and rider.”

Horses – Job 39:19-25 “Do you give the horse its strength or clothe its neck with a flowing mane? Do you make it leap like a locust, striking terror with its proud snorting? It paws fiercely, rejoicing in its strength, and charges into the fray. It laughs at fear, afraid of nothing; it does not shy away from the sword. The quiver rattles against its side, along with the flashing spear and lance. In frenzied excitement it eats up the ground; it cannot stand still when the trumpet sounds. At the blast of the trumpet it snorts, ‘Aha!’ It catches the scent of battle from afar, the shout of commanders and the battle cry.”

Hawks – Job 39:26-30 “Does the hawk take flight by your wisdom and spread its wings toward the south? Does the eagle soar at your command and build its nest on high? It dwells on a cliff and stays there at night; a rocky crag is its stronghold. From there it looks for food; its eyes detect it from afar. Its young ones feast on blood, and where the slain are, there it is.”

Behemoths – Job 40:15-24 “Look at the Behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox. What strength it has in its loins, what power in the muscles of its belly! Its tail sways like a cedar; the sinews of its thighs are close-knit. Its bones are tubes of bronze, its limbs like rods of iron. It ranks first among the works of God, yet its Maker can approach it with His sword. The hills bring it their produce, and all the wild animals play nearby. Under the lotus plants it lies, hidden among the reeds in the marsh. The lotuses conceal it in their shadow; the poplars by the stream surround it. A raging river does not alarm it; it is secure, though the Jordan should surge against its mouth. Can anyone capture it by the eyes, or trap it and pierce its nose?”

Leviathan – Job 41:1-11 “Can you pull in Leviathan with a fishhook or tie down its tongue with a rope?

Can you put a cord through its nose or pierce its jaw with a hook? Will it keep begging you for mercy? Will it speak to you with gentle words? Will it make an agreement with you for you to take it as your slave for life? Can you make a pet of it like a bird or put it on a leash for the young women in your house? Will traders barter for it? Will they divide it up among the merchants? Can you fill its hide with harpoons or its head with fishing spears? If you lay a hand on it, you will remember the struggle and never do it again! Any hope of subduing it is false; the mere sight of it is overpowering. No one is fierce enough to rouse it. Who then is able to stand against Me? Who has a claim against Me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to Me.” For more, read verses 12-34 as well.

Practice repentance

science with a twist

To complete this science experiment, you will need these supplies:

- a white cotton cloth
- berries (fresh or frozen blueberries, blackberries or raspberries)
- lemon juice
- measuring cups
- a cookie sheet
- a spoon

- 1** Prior to beginning the experiment, create a stain on the cotton cloth using the berry juice.
- 2** Invite your children to try to wash the stain out using water. (Bath time is an ideal time for this activity!) Point out that the berry stain is like sin; no matter how hard we try, we cannot get rid of sin on our own.
- 3** Next, place the stained cloth on a cookie sheet. Have your children pour lemon juice on the stained area, one teaspoon at a time. As you do so, explain that the lemon juice represents God’s power.

4 Read 1 John 1:9 and rinse the fabric with water. Explain that our job is to confess our sins and that God is the one who purifies us (or washes our sins away). You may need to pour hot water through the fabric if it is a tough stain.

5 Use the questions provided below to prompt discussion. Finish by taking time to pray together, asking God if there is any sin in your lives that He wants to remove. Personal confession can be done aloud or quietly.

Questions for discussion

- Could you wash the stain out using your own strength?
- How do we get the dirt off the outside of our bodies?
- Can we wash our insides?
- What did get rid of the stain?
- Who does the lemon juice represent?
- What do we need to do to get rid of our sin?
- What is the difference between a proud person and a humble person?

Key concepts

It can be hard to admit that we have sin in our hearts. It can also be difficult to accept the fact that we cannot get rid of our sin using our own strength. The berry stain is like our sin. We cannot get rid of it on our own. Jesus did not sin, so He was able to be the perfect sacrifice and take the punishment for everyone's sins.

The great news is that God will forgive the sins of anyone who asks and will purify our unrighteousness. A proud person will not admit they have sin in their lives and they will refuse to ask for God's help. A humble person will confess their sin and ask God to wash their sin away.

Relevant Scripture

Acts 3:18-20 "But this is how God fulfilled what He had foretold through all the prophets, saying that

His Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that He may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus."

Hebrews 9:14,27 "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! . . . Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him."

James 5:16 "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

1 John 1:6-8 "If we claim to have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Let's try to make snow!

science with a twist

In this activity, you'll give your children a chance to try to make snow, in order to help them understand human inadequacy when compared with God's sovereignty. You will need these supplies:

- water
- ice cubes
- zipper lock bags
- small plastic bowls

- plastic plates or cutting boards
- large and small towels or cloths
- a rolling pin or crushing tool
- plastic rules or similar “scrapers”
- a close-up image of a snowflake
- mini-marshmallows
- a few large marshmallows
- toothpicks

1 Start by covering your kitchen table with absorbent towels. Initially, give each of your children a small bowl of water and ask them if they can make snow. They may tell you they could if the water was frozen. In this case, provide ice cubes for them to work with as well. Invite them to crush or shave the ice to make snow using the cutting board, rolling pin and scraping tool.

2 No matter what they try to do with their water or ice, there is no way your children will be able to make true snowflakes. You may need to explain that although finely crushed ice has many snow-like qualities, it is not real snow. The ice crystals in crushed ice are not uniformly formed like snow crystals are.

3 Now show your children a close-up photograph of a snowflake. Have your children help you build a model of a similar snowflake using the marshmallows and the toothpicks. Make your snowflake by using a large marshmallow as the centre and poking six toothpicks into it, evenly spaced. Then put a mini-marshmallow on the end of each toothpick (like a six-pointed star). Now make a crushed ice crystal by randomly sticking toothpicks and marshmallows together (in a non-uniform design).

Option 1: If it is wintertime and you have access to snow falling outdoors, continue this activity by catching some snowflakes on your mittens or on black paper so you

can observe the uniformity of their shapes and compare them to crushed ice.

Option 2: Visit science websites or seek out DVDs on the science of snow formation. Alternatively, simply view close-up photographs of snowflakes. An excellent children’s book on this topic is The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter’s Wonder by Mark Cassino and Jon Nelson. Chronicle Books, 2009.

Option 3: Cut your own paper snowflakes. Search online for simple instructions.

4 After your interactive snowflake activities, stimulate discussion by asking the following questions:

Questions for discussion

- Were you able to make snow?
- Why not?
- How are ice chunks different from snowflakes?
- Who is the only one who can make real snowflakes?
- Have you ever heard of a snow-making machine or skied on man-made snow?
- Do you think skiers prefer man-made or God-made snow?

Key concepts

Only God can make snow and the original design for the snowflake is His! Crushed or shaved ice may look and feel like snow, but it does not feel like real snow does. You cannot make a snowball out of crushed ice. It will make an ice ball, but not a true snowball because the ice doesn’t have the same air spaces between the crystals that snow has. Another great example of this are the snow-making machines on ski hills. Any skier will tell you that man-made snow just isn’t the same as the snow God makes!

As people, we tend to become proud of our accomplishments and abilities. In Jeremiah, wisdom, strength and wealth are listed as things we should not boast about. 1 Corinthians 1:25 says, “For the

foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” One of the best ways to stay humble is to remain focused on God’s greatness. He is so much wiser than us and so much stronger, and everything in the whole wide world is His! God is pleased when we fear (or respect) Him greatly (Psalm 147:10-11). When we recognize the magnitude of God’s holiness, power and love, and realize how imperfect, weak and unloving we are in comparison, it helps us to stay humble.

Relevant Scripture

Psalm 147:1,4-6,16-18 “Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him! . . . He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit. The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground. . . . He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. He hurls down His hail like pebbles. Who can withstand His icy blast? He sends His word and melts them; He stirs up His breezes, and the waters flow.”

Psalm 148:4-13 “Praise Him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at His command they were created, and He established them for ever and ever – He issued a decree that will never pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do His bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.”

Jeremiah 9:23-24 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the Lord.”

Spending time in God’s presence

physical activity or drive time or any time

The best way to stay humble is to spend time in the presence of someone greater. During the time you are studying humility, take time during your day to read and talk about who God is and how truly wonderful He is.

Ideas for keeping God and His greatness at the forefront of your minds include printing out the Bible passages from below and:

- posting them around the house
- taking them on a walk with you
- placing them in your vehicle (to read at red lights).

Ask your children to remind you to read a verse at each red light, or after passing landmarks on your walk, or on the hour (in your home). This will help you remember, and also increase your children’s level of interest and participation. As you review the verses, explain to your children that by focusing on God and how amazing and holy He is, it reminds us that we are not as “perfect” as we sometimes think we are.

Optional: To supplement this lesson, arrange for each child to spend time with someone who has well-developed skills in an area your child also excels in. For example, if there is a sport or a musical instrument your child is proficient at, have them observe a “master” of the instrument or sport they play. This can be done in person or via media.

Relevant Scripture

Psalm 145:17-21 “The Lord is righteous in all His ways and faithful in all He does. The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise His holy name for ever and ever.”

Isaiah 40:25-26 “‘To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal?’ says the Holy One. Lift up your

eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.”

Isaiah 55:8-15 “ ‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”

Isaiah 57:15 “For this is what the high and exalted One says – He who lives forever, whose name is holy: ‘I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’”

Jeremiah 10:6-8 “No one is like You, Lord; You are great, and Your name is mighty in power. Who should not fear You, King of the nations? This is Your due. Among all the wise leaders of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like You.”

Matthew 23:12 “For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

1 Corinthians 1:25 “For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

Complimenting God

drive time or any time

The goal of this “complimenting God” exercise is to help your children practice honouring God when they are given a compliment. Here are some example responses you can practice over dinner or while travelling in a vehicle. Also take time to read your choice of the Bible verses listed below and review the discussion questions.

- “Susie, you are a great soccer player.”
“Thank you. God gave me a talent for playing the game.”
- “Jeff, you sure are a bright boy.”
“Thanks. I give God the honour. He is the one who made me.”

- “What a great runner you are, Jen!”
“Thank you. God gave me quick feet.”
- “You swim so well, Tyler!”
“Thank you. God made me kind of like a fish.”
- “Andrew, what an amazing drawing you have done!”
“Thank you. God gave me the gift of being creative. I’m glad He made me this way.”
- “You are such a pretty girl, Isabelle!”
“Thank you. God is the one who made me this way.” Or, “Thank you. I like to think of myself as one of God’s many neat creations.”
- “You play the piano so well, James!”
“I practice a lot, but it is God who gave me a natural talent for music.”

Questions for discussion

- What gifts and talents do you have that others compliment you on?
- Who made you and gives you talents and abilities?
- Who placed you in the position of honour over the animals on the earth?
- If you are going to boast, what should you boast about? (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Key concepts

When we forget who God is and who we are, it is easy to become proud. God made us and deserves thanks and praise for all that we are and all that we have (Isaiah 66:2). He is the Creator of the whole earth, and all that is in it, including us. God is the one who placed people in the position of honour over the animals on the earth (Psalm 8:6).

Any honour we receive from others should be reflected back to God. He made us! When someone compliments us, pride will tempt us to say or think, “Yeah, I’m great!” A humble person, however, will remember that God deserves the honour for making him/her as He did.

Relevant Scripture

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 “You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”

Psalms 8:3-9 “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is mankind that You are mindful of them, human beings that You care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. You made them rulers over the works of Your hands; You put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!”

Isaiah 66:1-2 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where is the house you will build for Me? Where will My resting place be? Has not My hand made all these things, and so they came into being?’ declares the Lord. ‘These are the ones I look on in favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at My Word.’”

Jeremiah 9:23-24 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the Lord.”

Pride comes before a fall

physical activity

Set up a room as a “pride obstacle course” by padding the floor with cushions, mattresses and blankets. To illustrate how pride causes us to be “blind” to our own sins, begin by blindfolding one child. Have each of your children try to walk from one end of the room to the other without falling over the soft obstacles in their path. If a child is not comfortable wearing a blindfold, have them simply walk through the room with their eyes closed.

After each child has tried the “pride obstacle course,” discuss how pride can make us “blind” to our own sinfulness so that we see no need to repent of our sin before God. Refer to your choice of the Bible verses below before proceeding on to the second part of this activity.

Relevant Scripture

Psalms 36:1-2 “I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes. In their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin.”

1 John 1:9-10 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His Word is not in us.”

Proverbs 18:12 “Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honour.”

To further illustrate humility and the importance of taking advice, have your children take turns walking through the room with your guidance. Some children will prefer to hold your hand, while others will enjoy the challenge of being guided verbally. After this experience, use the “questions for discussion” to compare the two outcomes and to review the importance of being willing to admit that we are sinful and that we need help from God and others.

Relevant Scripture

Psalms 25:9 “He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.”

Proverbs 13:10 “Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.”

Proverbs 16:20 “Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.”

Psalms 18:27 “You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.”

Proverbs 19:20 “Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.”

Questions for discussion

- According to Psalm 36:1-2, what is pride?
- How can you tell when someone is proud?
- What does the Bible say will happen to those who are proud?
- What does the Bible say about those who listen to advice?

Key concepts

The Bible talks about the sinfulness of the wicked, beginning with a lack of respect for God. Pride can be defined as thinking so highly of ourselves that we do not even notice our sin. We can often tell when a person is proud because they will not admit that they do anything wrong; they always think they are right and refuse to take advice from others. God tells us that He will cause those who are proud to be “brought low” (or humbled). On the other hand, He promises to teach those who are humble His ways and that those who accept instruction will grow up to be wise and prosperous.

Proud and humble stuffies

drama / role play

This is a fun role-play activity. Your children will demonstrate “pride comes before a fall” using their dolls or stuffed animals.

Begin by explaining that being proud is thinking that you are more important or more valuable than others. Proud people are also known for walking around with their “noses in the air.” They think so much of themselves that they look down on others. The Bible tells us that flattering ourselves, which means focusing on how wonderful we think we are, leaves us unable to detect or hate our sin (Psalm 36:1-2).

Set up something for the stuffed animals or dolls to trip over. This can be done by tying a string between two chairs at about knee height of the stuffed animals you will be using. Take turns having the stuffed animals walk along and brag about how

attractive they are or how good they are at some activity. As the stuffed animal approaches the string, make it trip and fall down. Say “Oops! Poor Stuffie! Pride comes before a fall.”

Relevant Scripture

Psalm 36:1-2 “I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes. In their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin.”

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”

I’m a star!

drama / role play

Prepare some fancy food beforehand by cutting regular sandwiches into tiny squares. Serve them on fancy plates along with veggie sticks, cheese and crackers. Pour glasses of water or juice and plan to serve them with lemon or orange slices as a garnish. While you are preparing the food, have your children begin collecting dress-up clothes and old sunglasses. Finally, you will need to cut out black paper circles to cover the lenses in the sunglasses. Ensure you have a roll of tape handy.

Have fun dressing up with your kids. Pretend to be movie stars or other famous figures such as athletes or musicians. As you play, explain that many people who star in movies, concerts or in sporting events become so popular that whenever they go out in public, people swarm around them, asking for their autograph or to have their picture taken with the star. To avoid being recognized by the general public, popular figures sometimes wear dark sunglasses as a disguise. Give each of your children a pair of sunglasses to put on as well, to conceal their identity from the “adoring public.” Take turns strutting around the house and being “mobbed” by fans (other members of the family) who persistently request autographs or photo opportunities.

As your kids begin to tire of this pretend play, explain that stars are often invited to nice restaurants. Restaurant owners like to have these popular people visit their restaurants regularly, because then other people want to eat there too, making the

restaurant famous. Pretend your kitchen table is a fancy restaurant and have your kids “order” special food. While you are enjoying your snacks, use the questions for discussion to guide your conversation about the dangers of popularity.

Questions for discussion

- Would you like to be famous some day? Why or why not?
- Is anyone in our family famous?
- As much fun as it is to be the centre of attention, why might popularity be dangerous?
- In what ways do you think famous people are tempted to sin?
- When might you or I be tempted to think we are “pretty good”?

At this point have your children tape black circles over the lenses of their sunglasses.

- What can you see now?
- How is pride like the black paper on your glasses?
- If you or I think we are righteous, what are we then tempted to do?
- Are you fooling anyone if you say that you are not a sinner? (1 John 1:8-10)
- Is anyone really righteous?
- How does God view our righteous acts?
- Who do you fool when you think that you are “really something”? (Galatians 6:3)
- Whose actions are you to “test” or judge? (Galatians 6:4)
- Should you say good things about yourself? (Proverbs 27:2)

Key concepts

There are advantages and disadvantages to being famous or popular. Certainly it is fun to be invited to parties and to have other people give you a lot of attention. But one of the disadvantages is that popularity can tempt a person to begin to think too highly of themselves. If you are always the centre of attention it is easy to start thinking, “Everybody likes me so much; I must be pretty special.” Even if we are not famous, there are still ways that the sin of pride can sneak up on us. For example, if we are very good at a particular sport or activity, we can start to feel proud of ourselves.

Another way we can be prideful is when we start to compare ourselves to others, judging the sin we see in their lives. Pride is like the black paper on our glasses, because it “blinds” us from seeing our own sinfulness. Just as popularity can “blind” famous people from seeing that everyone is as valuable as they are, so pride makes us unable to see our own faults.

If we are proud of our own righteousness (thinking we are someone special), we fool ourselves. The Bible tells us that nobody is righteous and that we all have sinned. Each of us is to be concerned only about our own actions. God doesn’t want us to judge others for their actions. Instead, He wants us to look at and evaluate our own hearts. The Bible also tells us that we should let others praise us, rather than praising ourselves.

Close by praying and asking God to give you all humble hearts that desire to honour Him, instead of trying to gain attention and recognition for yourselves.

Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 27:2 “Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.”

Romans 3:22-24 “This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 6:2-5 “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load.”

1 John 1:8-10 “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His Word is not in us.”

Communication capers and body blunders

physical activities

To illustrate how important each part of the body is and how the whole body works together, complete your choice of these fun and potentially messy exercises. After each exercise, ask your children what body parts they used to complete the challenge and what parts they missed using!

- Blindfold one child, then have a second child clasp their hands behind his or her back. Then instruct the blindfolded child to feed the other some yogurt, or some equally messy food. The first time you do this exercise, allow the person being fed to speak out loud to direct the person feeding them. The second time, don’t allow the person being fed to give any instructions at all.

Note: You may prefer to use two adults for this exercise, or allow a child to feed an adult.

- Play a very basic game of Charades. Beforehand, you’ll need to prepare notecards featuring pictures of household appliances. Examples that work well include a kettle, microwave, toaster, stove, fridge, washing machine, dryer, blow-dryer, curling iron, blender, radio, television or computer. Have each child draw a card and act as if they are the appliance, while the remaining children try to guess which appliance is being mimicked. Begin with a “no noise” rule. If guessing the correct appliance proves too difficult, allow the actor to make noise.

- Blindfold each child and ask them to draw a picture of something simple. Guide their hands to the paper, but leave the rest to the child. Next, have them draw the same item with their eyes open. Compare the results.
- Play Tape the Tail on the Bunny. Print or draw a picture of a rabbit on some poster paper (minus the fluffy tail). Put tape on some cotton balls and have your children take turns trying to accurately tape a tail on the rabbit while wearing a blindfold.
- Stand outside a glass window or glass door and take turns trying to communicate with those inside. A vehicle works well because it’s somewhat soundproof.
- After completing your choice of the activities, read Romans 12:3-10 and use the discussion questions to talk about how the different parts of the body working together can be like a family working together.

Questions for discussion

- How hard does life become when you don’t have the use of your eyes?
- What happens to our ability to communicate when we don’t have the use of our mouths?
- Which is more valuable: the use of our eyes, the use of our ears or the use of our mouths?
- Imagine that our hands, mouth and ears could talk to each other. What might they say to each other if they were becoming overly proud of their role in the body?
- Can you think of a special talent or ability that God that has given you?
- How could you use your ability to serve others?
- Why do you think God gave people different gifts?

Note: When we consider “gifts” young children can use, examples include a cheerful disposition and a smile that

can be offered to anyone at any time. “Helpful hands” can be used to open doors, carry packages and to clean up messes. A helpful pair of arms can offer a hug to someone who is feeling sad. A kind voice can place a phone call to a friend who is sick or to a grandparent, who will be blessed because someone called to say, “I love you!”

Key concepts

All of these fun exercises help illustrate that we need all the parts of our body to function well. Basic life tasks become very difficult when we don't have the use of our eyes to guide our hands. If we cannot use our voice, it is challenging to communicate. God gives everyone gifts and abilities so we can use them to serve others. If we begin to think our gifts are more valuable than the gifts God has given to others, our pride can get in the way of the “body of Christ” functioning as it should.

When we compare ourselves to one another, we can be tempted to question each person's value. As a result, our pride can get in the way of things being accomplished in a way that honours God. If we are tempted to be proud of a gift God has given us, we can remember the instructions written in Romans 12:9-11 that tell us to use our gifts to serve God and to show our love for each other by honouring one another above ourselves.

Relevant Scripture

Romans 12:3-6a *“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.”*

Pride is sneaky

science with a twist

For this hands-on option, you will need a piece of paper measuring 7 cm x 7 cm (2¾” X 2¾”), a flat surface such as a tabletop, and a plastic water bottle or a glass pop bottle with a mouth measuring less than 2.5 cm (1”) in diameter.

- 1 Begin by asking your children to list the things they are tempted to be proud of. Write their ideas down on a small sheet of paper.
- 2 Take that list and crumple it into a tight ball. Have your children practice blowing the paper ball around on a flat surface, such as your kitchen table. For extra fun and practice, have them try to blow the paper ball through a “goal” area. You can make a goal by placing two coins 15-20 cm (6”) apart.
- 3 Once your children have mastered the technique of blowing the ball around, hold the bottle at the edge of the table so its mouth is level with the surface. Ask your children to take turns trying to blow the paper ball into the mouth of the bottle. (Since the bottle is full of air, the ball will not go in). After your children have had plenty of opportunity to try blowing the ball into the bottle, stand the bottle up and allow them to drop the paper ball into the bottle using their hands.
- 4 Explain that the paper ball represents pride. The bottle represents us. When we acknowledge that we need God's help in life, we are humble. Humility is often demonstrated by a person bowing down. The bottle on its side is in a bowed position. If we stay humble, honouring God instead of ourselves, pride has a hard time getting into our hearts. On the other hand, when we become self-confident and forget to honour and trust in our own ability to resist sin, the sin of pride can easily sneak up on us.

Relevant Scripture

Psalms 119:133 *“Direct my footsteps according to Your word; let no sin rule over me.”*

Proverbs 28:13 *“He who conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”*

1 Chronicles 29:20 *“Then David said to the whole assembly, ‘Praise the Lord your God.’ So they all praised the Lord, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the Lord and the king.”*

Nehemiah 8:6 “Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, ‘Amen! Amen!’ Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.”

Psalm 22:27 “All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him . . .”

Acts 3:19-20 “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that He may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus.”

Umbrella tag

physical activity

Play this game to teach the concept that God protects us like an umbrella. While you play your game of tag, have an adult hold a large umbrella that serves as a “home free” base. Runners can only stay under the umbrella for a count of ten. Ideally, arrange to play this game with a larger group of children in a play-date setting or with friends.

Note: A walk in the rain with an umbrella provides an alternative activity that teaches the same concept. When someone chooses to step out from under the umbrella, they are no longer “protected” from the rain.

Use the discussion questions below to help your children understand that God wants to protect us. When we follow His instructions given in the Bible, we are following what is good and right, and we have little to fear. On the other hand, when we are prideful and think we can do things on our own, refusing to follow God’s way, we often end up in trouble.

Questions for discussion

- What would happen to little chicks if they didn’t run under their mother’s wings when a predator came along?
- Have you ever thought that you knew better than your parents and chose not to follow a rule?
- How is that like the chick that refuses to hide under his or her mother’s wings?

- What would happen to a little child who decided to live on their own, taking care of himself/herself?
- Which rules in our home were made to keep you safe?
- If you chose not to follow these safety rules, what could happen to you?
- Have you ever ignored a parent’s warning and ended up in trouble?
- Can you think of any rules God gives us in the Bible?
- How would life be different if we chose not to follow God’s rules?
- What is the main reason why someone would ignore God’s instruction or advice from their parents?
- *Read Psalm 5:4-5,11-12.* (See below.) What blessing does God promise for those who are righteous?
- *Read Proverbs 16:20.* What does God promise for those who listen to advice?

Key concepts

Rules can be a bother to follow and they may even seem to take away some fun at times, but rules exist in our home for a reason. They keep us safe and help us live at peace with God and others. A child may not like the rule at home that says, You must be supervised by a parent when you play outside, but parents make this rule so that children are kept safe from harm.

Similarly, God also gives us rules to protect us. One of God’s safety rules says that people are not to kill each other (Exodus 20:13). That rule makes a lot of sense, because no one would be safe if people walked around killing each other!

The main reason children ignore their parent’s advice or instruction is pride. Refusing to follow a leader’s guidance or God’s rules is called being rebellious or

prideful. An attitude of pride says or thinks, “I know better than you do, so I am not going to do as you ask.” The Bible says that fools follow their own way and wise people take advice (Proverbs 12:15). We also read in the Bible that God promises to protect those people who prove they are righteous by following His directions. It says God will “surround them with favour, as with a shield” (Psalm 5:12). When we live our lives following God’s advice, we know God will use His power to shield us from danger, just as the mother hen shields her chicks from harm with her strong wings.

Relevant Scripture

Proverbs 12:15 “The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.”

Proverbs 16:20 “Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.”

Psalm 5:4-5,11-12 “For You are not a God who is pleased with wickedness; with You, evil people are not welcome. The arrogant cannot stand in Your presence. You hate all who do wrong. . . . But let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may rejoice in You. Surely, Lord, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield.”

Recommended resources

For a list of children’s stories that reinforce the theme of this lesson, consult the home page for the **humility** lesson at Kidsofintegrity.com.

Planning card for humility

point form

God's way

I am demonstrating godly character when:

- I am humble
- I give honour to God for my talents and abilities
- I accept advice

My way

When I am tempted to:

- be proud
- insist on being first or think that I'm the best
- ignore advice

And God is pleased!

I know that I need to go to God for help.

This week, we will focus on learning about humility by:

Date complete:

Daily reminders: PRAY! | Speak words of blessing and affirmation | Review memory verse

Memory verse:

--

Planning card for humility

calendar form

God's way

I am demonstrating godly character when:

- I am humble
- I give honour to God for my talents and abilities
- I accept advice

My way

When I am tempted to:

- be proud
- insist on being first or think that I'm the best
- ignore advice

And God is pleased!

I know that I need to go to God for help.

This week, we will focus on learning about humility by:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Daily reminders: PRAY! | Speak words of blessing and affirmation | Review memory verse

Memory verse: