



December 20th, 2009
Sermon Based Studies

Group member guide

“Surviving Life” #18
1 Peter 5:5-7

Text: 1 Peter 5:5-7-- ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.” (ESV)

Getting to know me

1. When you were young (teens, 20s) did you (or do you) find it difficult to listen to the wisdom and advice of your “elders.” Did you think that they didn’t understand the world as it was; that they were stuck in a previous generation? How does this relate to the topic of pride and humility?

2. Anxiety. What have you worried about recently? What does that have to do with humility?

Into the Bible

1. Pastor Dean's message contained a survey of the sources of pride. Look again at these passages. Where do you see these in our society? Which of these do you struggle with?

PRIDE IS SELF-SATISFACTION.

Hosea 13:4-6

PRIDE IS SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SELF-RELIANCE.

Deuteronomy 8

PRIDE CONSIDERS ITSELF ABOVE INSTRUCTION.

Jeremiah 13:9-10

PRIDE TAKES CREDIT FOR WHAT GOD ALONE DOES.

Daniel 4:30-32

PRIDE EXULTS IN BEING MADE MUCH OF.

PRIDE DESIRES THE PLACE OF GOD.

Acts 12:21-23

PRIDE OPPOSES THE VERY EXISTENCE OF GOD.

Psalms 10:4

PRIDE REFUSES TO TRUST IN GOD.

Proverbs 28:25

PRIDE IS ANXIOUS ABOUT THE FUTURE.

Isaiah 51:12-13

2. Peter exhorts all of us to be clothed with humility toward each other (verse 5). The word he uses, "clothe yourselves" has as its root a word that referred to the apron of a slave or herdsman which was tied over their tunic to keep it from getting dirty. How does that picture help you understand humility toward others? Compare this with Phil. 2:3-4. What does it mean to "consider others better than yourselves?"
3. Verse 6 contains two phrases that counterbalance each other—"humble yourselves" and "that . . . He may exalt you." Look at some other verses that form the background to this. Jesus' words in Luke 14:7-11 and Matt. 23:12. Isaiah 57:15
Ezk. 21:26

Application Questions

1. Imagine going one-on-one against Michael Jordan. What chance do you have? Think of your pride as a one-on-one against God ("God opposes the proud"). How are those chances? What steps do you take to turn off the pride?
2. How often would you say that you are worried about something? Is there something that you usually do to relieve that stress? Do you have any suggestions for someone who needs help with worry?
3. If "in due time" of verse 6 is not until the return of Christ, what can you do to hang on until then?
4. "Casting" in verse 7 means praying. Pastor Dean referenced Phil. 4:6-7 as a help to bring all our cares to God. This week, could you keep a list of those anxieties and bring them specifically to God? How can you pray so that they are left with God rather than just telling God how heavy they are and then carrying them away again?