

CONNECT GROUP LEADER GUIDE

HEADS UP! #12 Humility before Exaltation

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

Transparent Relationships - humility. You can find the Chuck Swindoll story about the “[tree house rules](#)” here if it helps. There isn’t much more to the story, but some implications are drawn out in the devotional. In describing what that looks like, share a story of someone you know who “Acted Medium” and why you appreciated it. **Make it your own!** Feel free to ask any question or share a personal story that helps your group begin to think about the role of humility in their real life. **Short on time?** Ask one person to share a story about when they were humbled or knocked back down to size.



A LOOK AT THE WORD

Digging Deeper into humility. Humility is addressed throughout Scripture, and reading these various verses helps that to sink in. **Ask for volunteers and assign each passage** in this entire section to someone at the beginning to help keep the conversation moving as you work through the study. For longer passages, you may want to slow down and have everyone turn to it so they can refer to the passage themselves as you discuss it.

Short on time? I think you should be able to work through these verses fairly quickly, but if you are short on time, choose one passage from each section to focus on. You’ll still get the idea from any one of them, they don’t necessarily build on each other.

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

VALUE – Transparent Relationships. Who shares my tough stuff? Your ability to share your tough stuff with each other is a reflection of your willingness to choose humility. If needed, have a frank conversation about how transparent your groups relationships are. **Start** by asking where your group is doing a good job at being transparent or humble with each other and then **ask** what steps you could take as a group to make it easier to share your tough stuff with each other and be more transparent. **IDEAS** – Break up when you pray into smaller groups. Spend some time having fun together this month, build friendships, build trust. Model transparency and honesty as a leader – admit to the group if you have trouble doing that. Talk about how being TOO honest or sharing too much information (TMI) at the wrong time can actually break down trust (embarrassing, confidential, private vs. public information, etc.)

Christ Community Church - Announcements

- ⊙ **The Perfect Gift** | is coming, Saturday DEC 10. This outreach event has reached thousands in our community since it began. It is a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to connect while serving others. There are hundreds of volunteer spots available, so you can find a place to use your gifts. There will be 2-hour shifts from 9:30a-5:30p. For details and to sign up go to www.ccames.org.
- ⊙ Our **Advent worship series** | “Comfort My People” [Isaiah] will begin on Sunday, NOV 27. Beyond Sundays, this seasonal series includes Saturday worship at Christmas Eve Services at 1:00pm, 3:00pm, and 5:00pm. Please note there will be no services at our building on DEC 25. --We trust this advance information will help you plan for the upcoming worship season! More seasonal schedule details will soon be available on the web site and church app!
- ⊙ **Holiday Decorating** | We need helpers to decorate the building for the holidays. If you love putting up garland, lights and Christmas trees, then this is the event for you! Time and date to be determined. Sign up online at ccames.org/decorating.



CONNECT GROUP STUDY

HEADS UP! #12 Humility before Exaltation – 1 Peter 5:1-14

*OVERVIEW: This CGS will focus on Peter's final words to these young Christians living in challenging times. As exceptional disciples, they are to **know that a hope-empowered community is the key to persevering in life's challenges**. That kind of community exudes a compelling humility before God and with one another.*

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

Pastor Charles Swindoll's story of the kids who built a tree house and posted their "Tree House Rules" is great. NOBODY ACT BIG. NOBODY ACT SMALL. EVERYBODY ACT MEDIUM!

- What do you like about that story? What do you think "acting medium" looks like?

A LOOK AT THE WORD

This week's 1 Peter 5 teaching emphasized how important humility is before God and with one another. Let's dig a bit deeper on what God's word teaches about genuine humility.

(1) Read Philippians 2:5-8 (cf. Matthew 11:29). Think together about God the Son's amazing humility. From this gather a number of "sentence completions" to "Humility is...." and "A truly humble person..."

Humility is _____.

A truly humble person _____.

(2) As you read and reflect on the following passages, what does each say about how important humility is to the Lord?

- Isaiah 66:1-2 (how does one's genuine humility exhibit itself?)
- Micah 6:8 (do you know someone who does this?)
- Zephaniah 2:3 (how important in light of coming judgment?)

(3) What does God teach us through humbling us?

- Deuteronomy 8:1-3 (note what He taught His people in their wilderness wanderings)
- [if you have time, read Daniel 4:28-37. What did God teach Nebuchadnezzar?]
- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (what was Paul's experience?)

(4) What are the assurances from God associated with genuine humility? (list the ones you find)

- Proverbs 22:4
- Luke 14:11, 18:14
- James 4:6, 10 and 1 Peter 5:6

It seems there are two options. We can "humble ourselves," or we can have God step in to "humble us" (dismantle our pride). Pride can keep us from God and His truth (cf. Proverbs 10:4...see also Proverbs 11:2)

MY LIFE- MY FAMILY-OUR MISSION

MY LIFE – Jonathan Edwards wrote, "Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility." Do a selfie-check for a few moments. Would you say you've humbled yourself before God in every known way? What about a "share tough stuff" check? Would those who know you best describe you as humble?

MY FAMILY – Read with your family Jesus' parable in Luke 18:9-14. As your family members: "What's different between the two men?" Discuss why God accepted the one, while rejecting the other. Pray about the importance of being humble before God.

OUR MISSION – One of the VALUES we want people to experience in the Christ Community Church family – as we seek to connect them in a life-shaping relationship in Christ -- is "transparent relationships," an atmosphere of humility and grace exhibited by our lives and manner. Do you believe this atmosphere is our vibe? Discuss why such a "feel" is so important for new people coming in who may be wondering about God.