

Lesson 1

What Is Humility?

In this book, you will be studying the character trait of humility. You'll learn what humility is and that pride is the opposite of it. Looking at Jesus, John the Baptist, and the apostle Paul, you'll discover their acts of humility. You'll read about an angel and some people who allowed pride to enter into their hearts and see what happened to them because of it. The Bible describes certain characteristics of proud people, and you'll read what these are. You'll also study about the consequences for being prideful. Lastly, you'll look at the characteristics of and the rewards for being humble. That's a lot to learn, isn't it? Are you ready? Here we go!

God's Word, the Bible, has a lot to say about humility.

1. What does humility or being humble mean? Write what you think it means in the space provided.

To humble yourself means to make yourself low. How do you make yourself low? You make yourself low by not thinking more highly of yourself than you think of others. You make yourself low by putting others first—above yourself.

Humble people are selfless people. In other words, humble people put their own wants, needs and desires second to the wants, needs and desires of others. They don't see themselves as above or better than others. In fact, it's just the opposite. Humble people admit that they have faults and weaknesses. Humble Christian people admit that they are nothing without God, and apart from Him, they can do nothing.

Pride is the opposite of humility. Someone who is full of pride thinks more highly of himself than he should. He sees himself as better than others. Proud people are selfish people. They put their own wants, needs, and desires above the wants, needs, and desires of others. Proud people have a very difficult time admitting their faults and weaknesses. Proud people believe that they don't need God, and they can do all things without Him.

God wants His children to be humble instead of proud. See for yourself by turning to the following verses. Read each verse, and fill in the blanks below. If there's an (OT) beside the verse, it's found in the Old Testament. If there's an (NT) beside it, it's found in the New Testament.

2. Proverbs 15:33 (OT) - "Having respect for the Lord teaches you how

to live wisely. So don't be _____ if you want to be honored."

3. Proverbs 16:18 (OT) - "If you are _____, you will

be destroyed. If you are _____, you will fall."

4. Romans 12:3 (NT) - "God's grace has been given to me. So here is what I say to every one of you. Don't think of yourself more

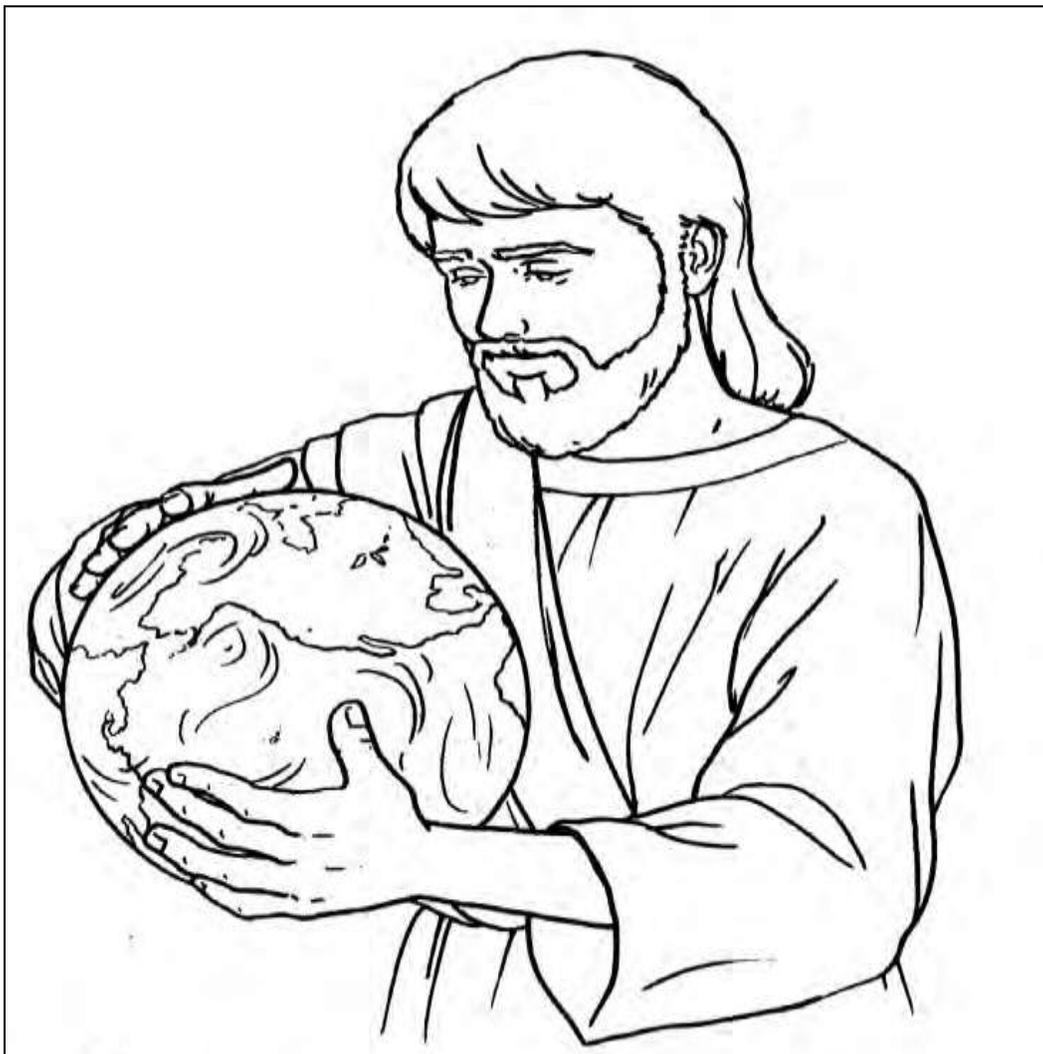
_____ than you should. Be reasonable when you think about yourself. Keep in mind the amount of faith God has given you."

5. Colossians 3:12 (NT) - "You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your

clothes. Don't be _____. Be gentle and patient."

You just read four verses that teach that God's will for you is to be humble and not proud. God takes this issue of humility and pride very seriously. You should, too.

Being humble is a choice that only you can make. As you study about the character trait of humility in the weeks to come, you'll see just how important the choice to be humble is in your life. You'll realize that Jesus humbled Himself to leave His rightful place in Heaven and come to earth in the form of a man. Not only did He teach about its importance, Jesus demonstrated humility in His own life. It was His humility and love that saved mankind.



Jesus humbled Himself for the world's sake.

That's enough for today. Let's review what you've learned.

- To be humble is to: put others before yourself, admit your faults and weaknesses, admit that apart from God, you are nothing and can do nothing.
- Pride is the opposite of humility.
- To be proud is to: put yourself before others, think of yourself more highly than you should, believe that you need no one—not even God.

This week's memory verse is Proverbs 16:18 (OT). Below, it is written.

“If you are proud, you will be destroyed. If you are proud, you will fall.”

6. Write this verse and where it is found in the space provided. Silently, repeat it to yourself until you can say the verse without looking at it.

ACTIVITY: Think of a way in which you could show humility today. Perhaps you could let someone go ahead of you in line. Maybe you could allow someone to have his or her way in a particular situation instead of you having your way. Write in the space below how you plan to demonstrate humility. Then do it. Remember to be a doer of the Word, and not a hearer only.
