

# HUMILITY

## Heavenly Virtues: Humility | Connection Group Discussion Guide | Week 7

### Connect (5 to 10 minutes)

***Come together to build relationships through fellowship and sharing about this week's worship.***

- Take a few minutes to share your thoughts about worship this week.
  - What aspects of worship did or did not connect with you?
  - What story or illustration made an impact on you?
- Share about one achievement in your life that you are most proud of and why.

### Context (30 to 40 minutes)

***Dig deeper into the videos and scripture for this week through questions and discussion.***

- Before watching the video, ask group members to answer this question:  
How would you define humility?
  - Is humility something you actively try to practice? Why or why not?

***Watch the first half of the video for this session on your DVD or online.***

- Do you agree that the world encourages us to brag on ourselves? Why or why not?
  - Where in your life are you most tempted to be proud or brag on your accomplishments?
- Do you think this sense of pride is always a bad thing? Why or why not?
  - What would healthy or holy pride look like to you?
- Think back to our early discussions of virtues verses resume skills. How has your understanding of these two changed throughout this series?
  - How can you encourage others around you to pursue virtues instead of skills?

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### Read Galatians 6:12-16

Circumcision was a sign of membership in the community of Israel. When the Christian church expanded to include Gentiles, circumcision and other Jewish rights of passage were constant subjects of debate. What would be required to be part of the community?

- In this passage, we see people tempted to be proud not of their own achievements, but of their acts of faith. When do you see people acting proud in their faith?
  - When do you feel this same temptation to be proud of your Christian practices?
- What would your life look like if the only thing you were proud of was the cross of Jesus?
  - Paul says that those who follow this rule will receive peace. How would your life be more peaceful if you only boasted in Christ?

**Watch the second half of the video for this session on your DVD or online.**

- If you were one of the people that identifies more with shame than pride, share why you feel this way.
  - Do you identify with the idea of a critical inner voice? What is this experience like for you?

**Read Isaiah 6:1-8**

Isaiah is given the gift of God's presence. He responds not with amazement or praise for God, but with shame: he is unworthy to receive the presence of God in his life. How might this story have ended if Isaiah had run away with the shame he felt instead of remaining with God?

- Share about a time when you have felt unworthy or unable to receive God's love and presence in your life.
  - Where did these feelings of shame come from?
  - How did your shame impact your relationship with God? With others?
  - What does God do to prevent Isaiah's shame from harming their relationship?
- How would you designate between the idea of shame as a vice, and the rightful feeling of being ashamed for the sin we commit as human beings?
  - Share about a time when you have felt convicted by the Holy Spirit without a feeling of shame.
  - How was your relationship with God impacted through this experience?

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### **Call (10 minutes)**

*We believe that God not only shows us who God is but invites us to participate in God's ministry by answering unique calls in our own lives. Join together in discovering how we can actively respond to scripture and God's presence.*

- Which of these two vices do you currently struggle with the most? Why?
  - How are you experiencing God's forgiveness for this sin?
  - What is one thing you can do to avoid this temptation this week?
- We believe in our ability to live as virtuous people when we do the simple work of practicing virtues in our everyday lives. If you are participating in the "call to action" shared in our weekly worship services for this series, share with the group which action(s) you chose and why. (Please refer to the Call to Action handout for weekly calls to action.)

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### **Closing (5 minutes)**

*God calls us into community by sharing our joys and concerns together in prayer and supporting one another in our walks with Christ. As we share testimony and stories of our lives, let us listen to where God is working within our community and how we can build each other up in Christian love.*

- Share joys and concerns with one another.
- Close in prayer, either by inviting a group member to pray or by using the prayer provided below.

#### **Closing Prayer**

Gracious God, we know You because You choose to call us as Your beloved children. We confess that some of us struggle to realize that we are still in need of Your forgiveness in the midst of Your grace. We become prideful and convinced that we don't need You, and we are sorry. We confess that for some of us, it is hard to receive Your love and Your call to serve because we think we are too unworthy. Help us to find a balance between these two. Help us to see that we are called only to be proud of Christ, and to open ourselves fully to receive Your unending grace. Amen.