

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 20

Proverbs 16 - Pride

Pride

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

Objective To define biblical pride and to warn the students about its ability to draw us further into sin.

Key Verses

Proverbs 16:18-19—Main Teaching Passage

Isaiah 14:12-15, 22—Secondary Teaching Passage

Matthew 5:3

Psalm 10:4

1 Corinthians 4:7

Romans 3:23

Memory Verse - James 4:10

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Proverbs 16:9.

Read Proverbs 16:18-19 with the students, and then write the word "pride" up on the board. Ask them what the word pride means, how they would use it in a sentence, etc.

Tell the students that we sometimes use the word to mean "to derive joy from," as in "I took pride in my work." Biblically, however, the word pride deals with self-righteousness and boasting in our own strength.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In this week's study, we will use Proverbs 16:18-19 as a jumping-off point and move into a discussion on pride. These verses tell us, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." The warning here is clear: a proud attitude leads us into danger and temptation. Proverbs always gives the choices of both the fool and the wise man. Here pride here is the fool's option, and of course humility is the choice of the wise man. As verse 16 tells us, "How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."

The prime example of a haughty spirit and a proud heart is found in Isaiah 14:12-15. Here Satan had the selfish audacity to attempt to replace God Himself as the rightful ruler of the universe. But Satan will be cast down to Hell in the final judgment of God. For those who rise up in defiance against God, there is nothing ahead but disaster (Isaiah 14:22). In place of pride, the Lord desires that we would have a spirit of humility. Jesus told us "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). The "poor in spirit" are those who recognize their utter spiritual bankruptcy and their inability to come to God aside from His divine grace. The proud, on the other hand, are so blinded by their pride that they think they have no need of God, or worse, that God should accept them as they are because they deserve His acceptance.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

You might have heard people say things like, "You should be proud of your work!" or "My son makes me so proud." In everyday use, we often use the word pride as a positive thing. When the Bible talks about pride, it is speaking about something slightly different. The kind of pride that God hates comes from an attitude of self-righteousness. God warns against this kind of pride because it becomes a hindrance, a barrier to seeking after Him. Psalm 10:4 explains that the proud are so consumed with themselves that their thoughts are far from God: "In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God."

Pride is giving ourselves the credit for something that God has accomplished. Pride is taking the glory that belongs to God alone and keeping it for ourselves. Pride is essentially self-worship. Anything we accomplish in this world would not have been possible were it not for God enabling and sustaining us. 1 Corinthians 4:7 says, "What do you have

LOOK (Continued)

that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?"

The Bible tells us about an angelic being that began to grow self-righteous. He began to overstep his place and to think that he was greater than the Almighty God who made him. He started to believe that he should be god and should rule over all the universe. That angelic being is called Satan, and we can read about his pride in Isaiah 14:12-15. Because of his pride, Satan was cast out of Heaven and will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire.

For us, pride can get in the way of admitting that we make mistakes. It can prevent us from seeing sin in our lives, or worse, from admitting that we need a Savior to forgive us. Romans 3:23 tells us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone one of us needs to realize that we need God's grace, His love, and the salvation that can only come from Him. Pride has kept many people from accepting Jesus Christ as Savior. Admitting sin and acknowledging that in our own strength we can do nothing to inherit eternal life is a constant stumbling block for prideful people. We are not to boast about ourselves; if we want to boast, then we are to proclaim the glories of God. What we say about ourselves means nothing in God's work. It is what God says about us that makes the difference.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize James 4:10

Students will often want to ask questions about the spiritual world when these topics are brought up. Instead of allowing the class to get sidetracked, let the students know that they will have a time at the end of class to ask any questions that they want about Heaven, Hell, and Satan. Try to keep them on the topic of pride during the class time.

Pray: Thank the Lord for the warnings that He gives us in Scripture. Praise Him for the ability to choose wisdom (in this case humility) over pride. Ask Him to help us to see ourselves as we truly are and to not allow pride to keep us from anything that He would give us.

Parent Question: Why is pride dangerous? What does the Bible warn us about pride?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Isaiah 14 by David Guzik

(12-15) The fall of Lucifer.

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.”

a. How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! Here, the prophet identifies the king of Babylon as Lucifer, son of the morning. Some debate if Lucifer is a name or a title; the word means morning star or day star, referring to a brightly shining object in the heavens. Whether it is a title or a name makes little difference; this once brightly shining king of Babylon is now fallen from heaven.

i. The prophetic habit of speaking to both a near and a distant fulfillment, the prophet will sometimes speak more to the near or more to the distant. Here is a good example of Isaiah speaking more to the distant, ultimate fulfillment. It is true that the king of literal Babylon shined brightly among the men of his day, and fell as hard and as completely as if a man were to fall from heaven. But there was a far more brightly shining being who inhabited heaven, and fell even more dramatically – the king of spiritual Babylon, Satan.

b. Fallen from heaven: In fact there are four falls of Satan, and this refers to his final, fourth fall.

i. Satan fell from glorified to profane (Ezekiel 28:14-16). This is what Jesus spoke of in Luke 10:18 when He says He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. This is the only fall of Satan that has already happened.

ii. Satan will fall from having access to heaven (Job 1:12, 1 Kings 22:21, Zechariah 3:1) to restriction on the earth (Revelation 12:9).

iii. Satan will fall from his place on the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3).

iv. Finally, as mentioned here in Isaiah 14:12, Satan will fall from the bottomless pit to the lake of fire, which we commonly know as hell (Revelation 20:10).

c. Son of the morning: This is a title of glory, beauty, and honor, which fit Lucifer well before his fall. The morning is glorious, and in Hebrew thinking, the son of “x” is characterized by “x.” So, before his fall, Lucifer was characterized by the glory of the morning.

i. Jesus Himself is called the Bright and Morning Star (Revelation 22:16). Satan, though a created being, had some of these glorious qualities in himself. No wonder that Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), deceiving many with his apparent glory, beauty, and goodness.

d. How you are cut down to the ground: What a contrast! This being, once so high, once so shining, once so bright, is now cut down to the ground.

e. For you have said in your heart: Here, God tells us the reason behind the fall of the king of Babylon, both literal and spiritual. The fall was prompted by something he said, even though he may have never said it with his lips – it was enough that he said it in his heart.

f. I will: The pride, the grasping selfish ambition, the self-will of the king of Babylon is powerfully expressed in five I will statements. This is the essence of the self-focused and self-obsessed life.

i. I will ascend into heaven: “Heaven will be my home and my place of honor.”

ii. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: “I will be enthroned, and will be exalted above all other angelic beings.”

iii. I will also sit on the mount of the congregation: “I will sit in the place of glory and honor and attention.”

iv. I will ascend above the heights: “I will continue to rise, even in heaven, until all see me in my bright shining glory.”

v. I will be like the Most High: “I will be glorious, and be set equal to God, far above all other created beings.”

vi. We see in these statements not so much a desire to exalt one’s self above God, but the desire to exalt one’s self above one’s peers. From this passage, it seems that Satan’s desire was not so much to be above God, but to be honored and regarded as the highest angel, above the [other] stars of God, receiving the glory and attention one would receive being next to God, equal with God, like the Most High. We don’t have to want to be exalted higher than God to be like Satan. It is enough to want to be exalted above other people!

vii. Lucifer was certainly a glorious angel (day star, son of the morning, and also called the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty . . . the anointed cherub who covers in Ezekiel 28:12 and 14). Yet, there came a time when despite all his beauty and glory, he departed from the heart of God by wanting to exalt himself above his peers. Instead, the heart of Jesus says, “The status of equality with God is not something to hang on to. I will let it go. I will give up My reputation, be a servant, live humbly among men, and even die an excruciating and humiliating death.” (Philippians 2:5-8) When Lucifer departed from this heart, he fell from glory.

viii. “It is a strange paradox that nothing makes a being less like God than the urge to be his equal, for he who was God stepped down from the throne of his glory to display to the wondering eyes of men the humility of God.” (Grogan)

g. What prompted Satan’s desire to exalt himself above all other creatures? What prompted the five I will statements?

i. Why did Lucifer rebel? Perhaps because he rejected God’s plan to create an order of being made in His image (Genesis 1:26), who would be beneath the angels in dignity (Hebrews 2:6-7a; 2 Peter 2:11), yet would be served by angels in the present (Hebrews 1:14; 2:7-8; Psalm 91:11-12) and would one day be lifted in honor and status above the angels (1 Corinthians 6:3; 1 John 3:2). Satan wanted to be the highest among all creatures, equal to God in glory and honor, and the plan to create man would eventually put men above angels. He was apparently able to persuade one-third of the angelic beings to join him in his rebellion (Revelation 12:3-4, 7, and 9).

ii. If this is the case, it explains well Satan’s present strategy against man: to obscure the image of God in man through encouraging sin and rebellion, to cause man to serve him, and to prevent the ultimate glorification of man.

h. Yet you shall be brought down: Despite Satan’s desire to exalt himself, he will not be exalted at all. Certainly, there is a sense in which he is exalted right now, but this is but an eye-blink in the scope of eternity. Satan, like all those who desire to exalt themselves, shall be brought down.

i. 1 Peter 5:6 expresses the true path to being exalted: Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. In Mark 9:35, Jesus said If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.