



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 6

October 1st & 2nd, 2011

Opening Prayer:

Father God, thank you for helping us to open up our hearts to you and to each other these past few weeks. We invite you to guide our conversation today.

Group Discussion:

This week Pastor James continued our discussion of the issues of our hearts by talking about pride. We learned that there is a good kind of pride that includes self-respect, confidence and human dignity. But there is also a bad kind of pride that can wreck havoc in our lives. It shows itself in attitudes of conceit, arrogance and superiority.

Ask a volunteer to read James 4:6.

- How does pride impact our relationship with God?

We counter-act our tendency toward pride when we choose to humble ourselves and ask for God's help.

Ask a volunteer to read James 4:10.

- What do you think it means for God to lift us up?

This weekend we looked at four problems that stem from pride. Which one of these do you relate to most:

- Pride poisons my relationships when I struggle to admit my mistakes.
- Pride keeps me from growing when I am hesitant to accept help, advice or correction from others.
- Pride causes anxiety when I am overly concerned about what others think of me.
- Pride angers God and keeps me from at a distance from his help and his grace.

Our relationships grow healthier when we learn how to be humble and considerate toward others.

Ask a volunteer to read Philippians 2:3-4.

- Give a practical example of how you can look out for someone else's interests, rather than just your own.
- Is this easy or hard for you?

Even though this group has been going for a long time, we may not always have the time to fully express what is going on in our lives. Close this 6-week session by asking each person to respond to these two questions:

1. How is your heart? (At peace? Stressed? Confused? Happy? Sad?)
2. What is going on in your life right now that is taking the majority of your time and energy?

In Closing: Remember that God will always do his part when we do our part. He cannot begin his work in us until we humble ourselves and invite him to lead us and then cooperate day-by-day with his good plans for us.

"And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart." Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT)

Closing Prayer:

Take time to pray for each other. Ask each person to pray for the person seated to their right.

We've reached the end of our six-session journey. Thanks for being a part of it!

It's time for your group to do one of these things:

- Continue meeting, using the weekend message discussion guide (available on the website).
- Continue meeting using new materials (samples are available at the ELC church office in Chula Vista).
- Call it good and end this group.
 - Please inform your growth group coach of your decision.

