



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 6

October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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?

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?

This week we want to take a significant amount of time to get to know each other's back-stories.

Here's how we'll do it: (Remember that DVDs of the *I've Got Issues* series with detailed instructions are available at the front desk of the ELC office in Chula Vista.)

- Each person will need a 3x5 card and a pen or pencil.
- There isn't time to include every detail, but in simple drawings or bullet points write down the most life-shaping events of your life.
- You only have 3-5 minutes to complete your cards.
- Now take turns sharing your story (3 minutes per person)

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.

### 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:** Father God, thank you for making this life a fantastic adventure. Help us enjoy it to the fullest by allowing you to become the Leader of our lives.

