



Group Leader Guide “Humble Themselves” - Revival November 8, 2020

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Lead Pastor **Jim Burgen** continues in the series “**Revival**” talking about what it means to humble ourselves and sincerely seek God’s guidance. Humility may seem counterintuitive to many of us, but we find in Scripture, and especially in the example of Jesus, that with humility, and not arrogance or pride, comes progress.

// Biblical Context

2 Chronicles 7:14: This verse comes in the midst of a revelation of God to King Solomon just after he had built and dedicated the temple in Jerusalem. Solomon was the son of King David and is credited with writing a lot of the wisdom literature in the Old Testament, including the book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. He is known for being the wisest and wealthiest king in Israel’s history. In this passage, God was essentially re-upping the covenant with the nation of Israel that He had established all the way back in Genesis with Abraham. This promise that God would deliver Israel if they humbled themselves plays out just five chapters later in **2 Chronicles 12**. Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, was now king, and it says that “he abandoned the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him” (**12:1**). Because of this, God sends the king of Egypt to plunder and destroy Israel and the city of Jerusalem (**12:2-4**). However, the

king and Israel humble themselves (**12:6**), and God relents on having Egypt destroy Jerusalem (**12:7**). However, there were still consequences (**12:8**).

Wineskins: As Jim pointed out, wineskins were a common way of fermenting and storing wine in ancient times. The other vessel they used was pottery. Pigskin was



A new wineskin



An old wineskin

commonly used for wineskins, but in Israel, due to pigs being unclean, they mostly used goatskin. New wineskins were supple and could stretch when gasses were emitted during the fermentation process. Once fully stretched, new wine could not be put into the wineskin or else it would burst when the gasses expanded.

// In Preparation

This week, there may be some questions that are confusing to people. The main one I am referring to is question 8, which asks about the perceived risks someone sees when going after something good. In my experience, many people don't easily see a risk when going for something good, at least in the context of these questions. They feel that they need to denounce fear by saying that there is no risk in fulfilling what God wants for them. However, this is not reality. There are plenty of risks in going after good things in our lives. That doesn't mean that there aren't great blessings and rewards as well, but this question is about assessing the risks.. So really try to get the embers in your group to answer this question correctly so that they can accurately see the dilemma they are in in their lives. If they are having trouble, it sometimes helps to remind them that if there weren't any risks, then they would have already achieved what they want. Or, you can rephrase the question by asking, "what bad thing might happen if you really go for this?" or "what might you have to give up in order to go for this?"

Secondly, do not try to downplay the risks they name. It might not seem like a big risk to you, but it might be for them! So, don't say things like "that's it?" or "that doesn't seem like a big deal!" If they name a real risk (meaning something bad that could happen or something they will have to give up), no matter how small you think it is, that is far enough and a great place for them to be. With this question, we are trying to bring awareness to the reality of their situation, not judge it or fix it!

// References

Keener, Craig S Ph.d. *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. InterVarsity Press, 2014.

<https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/vineyards-watchtowers/>

Group Discussion Questions “Humble Themselves” - Revival November 8, 2020

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// Bible References

2 Chronicles 7:14; Philippians 2:5-8; Romans 7:19; Luke 5:37-39; Habakkuk 1:5

// Message Screenshots

- No one can make us humble.
- Only we can humble ourselves.
- Jesus (1) let go of and emptied Himself of His former power-position (form/equal to God); (2) took on the new form of a human servant; and (3) chose to obey God to do what needed to be done without any limitations.
- Jesus chose to let go of the past that had been His life up to that point.
- Jesus chose to take hold of something new and unexpected by taking the form (posture) of a servant.
- Jesus chose to obey what and where God was leading and directing Him with no limitations or conditions.
- Humble yourselves: the obedient choice to let go of the past in order to take hold of something new and better in the future.
- We come to God (pray) with a mindset of obediently choosing to let go of the past (known) in order to allow Him to do something new and better (unknown) in the future.
- At the root of fear or not having control is PRIDE.
- Pride says that I can fulfill my own needs.
- Pride says that I can take care of myself.
- Pride says that I don't need help.
- Pride says that I can control outcomes.
- Pride is rigid, inflexible, stubborn, arrogant and unwilling to change or obey.
- Pride results in “this is good enough, this is how it is, this is how it will always be.”
- Pride is the refusal to humble oneself.
- Pride will keep us from experiencing forgiveness, healing and something new and better that God desires to do in our lives.
- God will not listen to a prayer that comes from a place of pride and conditional obedience.
- If we are not humble, it is not because we CANNOT be, but because we WILL NOT be.
- Pride is rigid, inflexible, stubborn, arrogant and unwilling to change or obey



// Community Questions

1. What is your favorite local brewery, cidery, or restaurant?

// Core Questions

1. Describe a time in your life when you felt “stuck.”
2. How were you eventually able to move forward?
3. What area of your life do you feel “stuck” in right now?
4. What do you really want for yourself in that area of your life?
5. What messages do you hear in your head that encourage you to go for that goal? (For example: “You’ll have [what you want], your life will be better, your family will thrive, etc.”)
6. What messages do you hear that are telling you to NOT go for it? (For example: “You’re better off now, it’ll never work, just do what you want, etc.”)
7. What is at risk for you if you DON’T achieve what you want? (For example: You won’t get [what you want], your life will be worse, your family will suffer, etc.)
8. What is at risk if you DO go for it? [For example: You’ll fail, you will have to give something up that you enjoy, etc.) This one can be hard to wrap your head around. If your answer is “Nothing is at risk,” then ask yourself, “Then why haven’t I done it yet?” There is usually some sort of risk that is holding you back.
9. Is this area of your life something that you are willing to humble yourself in and lay before God? Why or why not?
10. What is one step you can take this week into trusting God with that part of your life?

// Challenge

It often helps us to strengthen our faith in a current circumstance by looking back at what God did during previous hard times in our lives. Take some time this week to reflect on past difficult times or other times when you felt stuck, and remember how God pulled you through them. What were you afraid of back then? What did God do to protect or provide for you? How has your life improved because you went through what you did? Even if that time in your life was excruciatingly hard and full of grief and loss, is there anything in it that you can be grateful for? In other words, did God redeem any of the hard stuff for your or someone else’s good, not letting the hard time you went through “go to waste”? Looking forward, can you trust that God will see you through this current difficult time? Come back next week with any new revelations you come up with.



Student Group Discussion Questions
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// Parent Resource

Tell your student about a time that you stopped doing a bad habit for a good habit. Then, bring up a bad habit you want to work on quitting with your student

// Discussion Questions

1. What is something that you do every day?
What is the outcome of that habit you do every day?
Leaders: It may be helpful to guide your students to connecting the cause (their habits) to the effect (the outcomes of their habits).
2. What habit do you have that you want to stop doing? Why?
3. What does it mean to humble yourself?
What are some ways you can humble yourself?
4. Read **Luke 5:36-39**.
What stands out?
Read it again
Have a student explain the passage.
Why is Jesus talking about using new and old things?

// Pray

Pray that God will help us know when to ask for help.

// Leader Feedback

Please let us know how these questions went over in your group. Email your feedback to caleb_flowers@flatironschurch.com