

WEEK 3

MAN CHOSE REBELLION

PRIDE IS THE ROOT OF SIN

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

KEY IDEAS

1. God hates pride.
2. Pride is believing we know better than the God who created us.
3. Pride leads to other sins.

KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 3, Ezek. 28:14-16
Genesis 11:1-9

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

when we have prideful hearts we are acting just like Satan and telling God we can do better than Him.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

respect for God because His ways are always higher than ours.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

recognize that pride leads to other sins.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to repent of pride and sinfulness.

INTRODUCTION

The very first sin was pride, committed by Satan in Heaven. He believed that he could be greater than God and led a rebellion, which resulted in his punishment and exile from God's presence. The very first sin of mankind was also a result of pride. When Satan tempted Eve, she saw that the forbidden fruit not only looked good to eat but believed it would make her like God, knowing what God knows, and Adam passively ate it, too. We can see how this sin led to the fallen world we live in today, full of all kinds of evil. Sin has consequences and pride causes destruction. After the flood, God's people believed that they could make a name for themselves by building a tower so tall it could reach the heavens despite the fact that God had instructed them to go and fill the whole earth. By attempting to build one city so great, they were deliberately disobeying and their hearts desired to make themselves great instead of the God who had created them.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin by asking the following questions and wait for the children to respond with their own answers: What is pride? Are there different types of pride? Can some pride be good (like your parents being proud of you) and some pride be bad? If so, what is the difference? Draw a line down the middle of the white board. On one side write "good pride" and on the other write "sinful pride". Spend time describing the difference and ask the children to provide examples of each to write down. Good pride can be defined as "to have joy or delight in something you have been given, to be grateful" and sinful pride can be defined simply as "to consider your own self, achievements, status, or possessions as more important than others". Read Galatians 6:4 and 2 Corinthians 7:4 for examples of "good pride" and Psalm 10:4 for an example of "sinful pride".

KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis 3 and 11:1-9 and use the following points for guided discussion.

- God hates pride. (Proverbs 8:13)
 - Why does God hate pride? Pride is considered rebellion against God because it attributes to ourselves the honor and glory that only God deserves.
 - Why does God deserve honor and glory more than we do? God created the entire universe and everything in it, including us. God is eternal, all powerful, all knowing, and He is glorified by His perfect creation. But when that creation fell to sin, it broke the perfect order He created. God deserves glory because He delighted in creating you and made a way for you to be forgiven of your sin. God has given everything for you and has a plan to restore all things that have been broken by sin through His son Jesus.
- Pride is believing we know better than the God who created us. (Job 38:4)
 - Do you think we are meant to live for our own glory or for God's? God created us in His image, for His purpose and glory. We are created to worship Him, not ourselves. We are a poor substitute for an object of worship because we are imperfect but God is perfect and worthy of all praise. In Heaven, all we do will be worship and it will be fun! Our lives on earth should be spent as a rehearsal for Heaven.
- Pride leads to other sins.
 - What does Romans 14:23 mean when it says "sin is anything not done in faith?" There are times in life when we might be confused about whether or not something we do is sinful. Sometimes it might seem like the Bible isn't clear on a specific issue that could be sin and we might wonder what to do. These are considered "gray areas". There is not a clear answer; it is not black and white. This verse tells us that we can understand what to do in these times by evaluating our hearts. Is the choice we face going to glorify God or ourselves? Is it done out of a desire to faithfully follow God or to satisfy our own desires more?
 - How does pride lead to other sins? Pride is a rejection of authority in our lives, especially God's authority. If we are living in such rebellion, it is easy to see how we would put our own desires before God's and that would lead us to sin more.

Activity

Gather two equal sets of cardboard building blocks and tape an index card on each one that contains one word of the memory verse. Divide the class into two teams, and have each team line up on one side of the room. Each team will have one of the sets of blocks on the opposite side of the room. The object of the relay is to assemble the blocks in a tower with the memory verse in the correct order. Instruct the kids to run one at a time to the side of the room with the blocks. Each kid will grab one block and arrange it in the tower and then run back and tag the next kid in line to do the same until all blocks are stacked and the verse is in order. The first team to assemble the blocks correctly and shout "Only God is worthy of our worship and praise!" wins!

Prayer

Praise God for being worthy of all our worship. Thank God that He has offered us forgiveness for our sinful pride in His son Jesus. Ask God to help recognize your pride and repent. Ask God to help you consider others more highly than yourself.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Proverbs 16:18 and read Philippians 2:3-11.

This week we learned about how God hates pride. Spend time this week with your child/ren focusing on the topic of pride. Talk about what it means to be humble. Grab a sheet of paper and help your child write down qualities you like in a person when you first meet them. Is it easy to like someone who only talks and brags about themselves? This week try to make conscious efforts to spend more time asking others about themselves than talking to them about yourself.

DISCUSSION

- **Why did the people want to build a tower?** They wanted to build a great city and tower to make a name for themselves.
- **Why was this right or wrong?** The heart of the people was disobedient to what God had commanded when He told them to fill the earth. In addition to that, they wanted to make themselves great.
- **Did they get the tower done? What happened?** No, God scattered the people and confused their languages so that they wouldn't be able to accomplish it.
- **Why didn't God allow them to complete the tower?** God knew that the people would continue to pursue self-worship if He didn't scatter them. He knew that the people would need Him for salvation from their own sin, and if they continued to pursue themselves, they would never turn to Him in repentance for salvation. In His mercy, God confused their languages so that they would be able to see their need for Him more clearly.

PRAYER

Thank God for loving us so much in spite of our rebellion that He would send His son Jesus to die for our sins and offer us forgiveness. Ask God to help you recognize your own sinful pride and rebellion and turn to Him in obedience and repentance. Ask God to help you see others as more important than yourself.