

### RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

Spend a few minutes catching everyone up to speed from last week.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

### PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

Ask someone to share a brief faith story about how they see God working in their life this week.

### PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

### LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. Can you think of a time, or times, when you saw that pride could be a destructive, disunifying force? What were the effects that you observed?
2. Why do we typically find humility to be such an admirable trait?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. As love continues to be described in 1 Corinthians 13, we see that there is a stipulation that “love is not proud” in verse four. The word translated “proud” offers valuable information. It comes from a Greek word meaning to “puff up” or “blow up.” The English idiom “having a big head” communicates the same idea. In the workplace and in life, pride separates, while humility is often unifying. Pride substitutes self-acclaim for God’s acclaim. Pride is love turned inward, whereas God commands us to turn love outward.

We have all been around people who have no problem crediting themselves for their achievements. There are consequences for the proud person who feels superior to others. We see this with people in leadership positions in the Bible. Nebuchadnezzar is a great example of this (Daniel 4:37, 5:20). The consequences of pride will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay. You could end up persecuting the poor (Psalm 10:2). You will not seek after God (Psalm 10:4). You will be shamed (Proverbs 11:2). You will cause contention (Proverbs 13:10). You will be punished (Proverbs 16:5). You will be brought low (Proverbs 29:23).

### GROUP DISCUSSION

- Who have you worked with that is a truly humble individual? How is their humility manifested?
- What kind of influence would you have if you lived out Romans 12:3 and 12:16 in your workplace?
- Why is it so hard to focus our attention outward rather than inward, especially at work?
- Are there ways, in your opinion, that pride (not haughtiness) can be a positive motivating influence? Explain your answer.

### ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. What specific steps do you need to take to avoid pride in your life (admit wrongs, avoid bragging, acknowledge you are not the best at everything, recognize your faults, be grateful, be considerate in conversation, appreciate others, etc.)?

### CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)