

BIBLE TEACHING LESSON

Pride: The Sin That Wants God's Throne (Slide 1)

A Bible-based, teachable study of what pride is, how it shows up, and how the gospel replaces it with humility

LENGTH	AUDIENCE	MAIN TEXT	KEY CONTRAST
60–75 minutes	Youth & adults	Philippians 2:3–11	Pride vs. humility

BIG IDEA: Pride is the created being's attempt to live without God, to grab glory that belongs to God, and to lift itself above other people. Humility is the opposite: seeing God, ourselves, and other people the way they truly are, all under God's grace.

What Students Will Learn (Slide 2-3)

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

- Explain what pride is from the Bible, and tell the difference between sinful pride and simply being thankful for a God-given ability.
- Trace pride through both direct Bible teaching and real stories of people in Scripture.
- Explain how Jesus' path down (to the cross) and back up (to glory) is the exact reverse of Adam's grab for power.
- Connect pride to big Bible truths: sin, being made right with God, growing in holiness, and God being in control.
- Summarize how well-known Christian teachers from Augustine to Jonathan Edwards understood pride.
- Spot both loud pride and hidden pride, and practice biblical ways to put pride to death.

Suggested Class Schedule

Segment	Focus	Time
Opening	A question, a definition, and the big idea	5 min
Pride defined	Proverbs and key Bible words	12 min
Pride displayed	Genesis 3, Babel, Nebuchadnezzar, Luke 18	20 min
Pride reversed	Jesus, the cross, and being saved by grace	18 min
Church history	From Augustine to Edwards	10 min

Segment	Focus	Time
Application	Self-check, discussion, and prayer	10 min

Opening the Lesson (Slide 4)

OPENING QUESTION: When you hear the word pride, do you picture a loud, bragging person first? Or can pride also hide in quiet, insecure, religious, and respectable people?

Start by showing the difference between how we normally use the word 'pride' today and the pride the Bible warns about. A parent who says, 'I'm proud of you,' usually just means they are thankful and glad. The Bible does not tell us to pretend we have no skills or to refuse to praise someone who did a good job.

Sinful pride is a broken way of handling the good things we have. It takes a gift but forgets the Giver. It turns something we were only trusted to manage into something we think we own. Or it uses an ability as an excuse to feel better than other people.

Three quick verses to read together:

1 Corinthians 4:7 — 7 For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

- Everything you have was given to you. So, bragging as if you created it yourself makes no sense.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 — 23 Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; **24** but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.

- Don't build your bragging rights on being smart, strong, or rich. The one thing worth boasting about is actually knowing the Lord.

Galatians 6:4 — 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have *reason* for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.

- It's fine to honestly look at your own work. Just don't turn comparing yourself to your neighbor into a reason to feel superior.

Two Ways to Study Pride

This lesson looks at pride from two angles. Using both gives students a fuller picture.

Approach	The question it asks	Where we look
Direct teaching	What does the Bible plainly SAY pride is and does?	Proverbs; warnings from the prophets; commands from the

Approach	The question it asks	Where we look
		apostles
Real stories	What does pride LOOK LIKE in a real person, nation, or church?	Genesis 3 and 11; proud kings; Pharisees; the disciples; Herod

TEACHING TIP: Use both approaches. The direct verses give you clear, exact definitions. The stories show the disguises pride wears, how it grows over time, and where it finally leads.

Pride Defined (Slide 2, 4)

Pride is more than just thinking too highly of yourself. At its root, pride is refusing to live like what we actually are: creatures who depend on God. Pride wants three things — freedom from God, glory for self, and a place above other people.

Six Faces of Pride

Pride usually talks to us in one of these six voices:

- **Self-exaltation:** "I deserve to be above everyone else."
- **Self-sufficiency:** "I don't really need God or anybody's help."
- **Self-rule:** "I get to decide for myself what is right and wrong."
- **Self-glory:** "My talents and wins really come from me."
- **Self-righteousness:** "My good behavior makes God accept me more than other people."
- **Self-protection:** "I can't admit I'm weak, wrong, or clueless."

Related Words in the Bible

These words all describe pride from slightly different angles:

Word	What it means
Haughtiness	Thinking so highly of yourself that you look down on others.
Boasting	Claiming honor, power, smarts, or goodness as proof you are better.
Presumption	Acting as if God's authority and your own limits don't need to be considered.
Vainglory	Craving attention, applause, and being seen — showing off.
Self-righteousness	Trusting your own morality or religious record to make God accept you.
Humility	Honestly depending on God, knowing yourself soberly, and serving others.

Pride as the Bible Directly Teaches It (Slide 5)

What Proverbs Says

Proverbs 8:13 — To fear (deeply respect) the Lord means to hate pride and arrogance. Pride is the opposite of honoring God.

Proverbs 11:2 — Pride leads to shame, but wisdom comes with humility. Pride is a mistake on the inside before it becomes a public disaster.

Proverbs 13:10 — Pride causes fights. It makes every disagreement personal, because being corrected feels like an attack.

Proverbs 14:3 — A proud fool's own words end up hurting him, but wise words keep a person safe.

Proverbs 16:18-19 — Pride comes right before a fall. It is better to be humble with lowly people than to share the loot with the proud. (Diagram Handout)

Proverbs 29:23 — Pride will bring a person down, but a humble person ends up being honored.

THE BIG PICTURE: In Proverbs, pride is a false reading of reality. The proud person misjudges God, misjudges self, and misjudges others. That inner confusion eventually spills out in the form of bad talk, conflict, and collapse.

More Direct Teaching

Deuteronomy 8:11-18 — Success tempts people to forget God and to say, 'I did all this myself.'

Isaiah 2:11-17 — One day the Lord alone will be honored, and everything humans are proud of will be brought low.

Mark 7:20-23 — Pride comes out of the human heart. It's an inside problem, not just something society taught us.

1 John 2:15-17 — The bragging and showing off of this world is fading away. It does not come from God.

James 4:6-10 — God stands against the proud but gives grace to the humble. So turning back to God means humbling ourselves and drawing near to him.

1 Peter 5:5-7 — Believers should 'wear' humility, respect others, and hand both their honor and their worries over to God's strong hand.

Pride Shown in Bible Stories (Slide 6-7)

Genesis 3: Pride Says "I'll Decide"

The serpent promised Adam and Eve they would be 'like God, knowing good and evil.' But they were already made in God's image. The temptation was not to become creators. It was to take over God's job of deciding what is good, wise, and best — and to do it without listening to God.

Notice what pride did in the garden:

- It doubted that God is really good.
- It treated God's command as a rule to get around.
- It went looking for wisdom apart from trusting and obeying God.
- It put human opinion above what God had said.
- It chose to live as if we answer to no one.

DOCTRINE — ORIGINAL SIN: The fall did more than set one bad example. It damaged human nature itself. Ever since, people naturally curve inward and treat self as the center of everything. See Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 5:12–19; and Ephesians 2:1–3.

Genesis 11: Pride Builds a Name (Slide 9)

At the Tower of Babel, people pooled their strength and said, 'Let us make a name for ourselves.' Their skill and teamwork were real. The problem was their goal: they wanted lasting greatness on their own terms, and they ignored what God had told them to do.

- Working together can make rebellion bigger, not just accomplishments.
- Technology and success are not proof that God approves of what you are doing.
- Pride wants safety without trusting God and importance without obeying him.
- God stepped in, confused their language, and scattered them.

Deuteronomy 8: Pride Forgets the Giver

God warned Israel that full stomachs, nice houses, more stuff, and a strong army might lead them to think, 'My own power got me all this.' Notice: pride often shows up after we succeed, not after we fail.

- Enjoying God's gifts while forgetting the God who gave them.
- Treating what we were only trusted to manage as if we own it outright.
- Reading our blessings as proof that we're better than others.
- Trusting our stockpile instead of the Lord who provides.

Daniel 4: A Proud King Brought Low

King Nebuchadnezzar looked at his great city, Babylon, and gave himself all the credit. His boast had three parts: "I built this," "I did it by my own power," and "it all exists for my glory." So God took away his throne and even his sanity until he finally admitted that God is Most High.

- A king who thought he was more than human was humbled to live like an animal.
- His recovery started the moment he looked up to heaven.
- He admitted that God rules forever and that no one can put God on trial.
- The story ends with a clear lesson: God is able to humble anyone who lives in pride.

Luke 18: Religious Pride Exposed (Slide 11)

Jesus told a story to people who were sure they were righteous and looked down on everyone else. A Pharisee used his prayer as a chance to advertise himself. A tax collector stopped comparing himself to anyone and simply begged God for mercy.

The Pharisee	The Tax Collector
Compared his strengths to another man's failures.	Named his own guilt without comparing himself to anyone.
Listed his religious achievements as proof he was good.	Offered God no achievements at all to earn favor.
Mentioned God but stayed focused on himself.	Simply asked God for mercy.
Looked impressive but was not made right with God.	Went home right with God, by grace.

A TEST WORTH REMEMBERING: Self-righteous pride doesn't have to deny grace out loud. A person can talk about grace while still, deep down, trusting their own performance and looking down on others.

More Examples of Pride (Slide 10)

Exodus 5:2; 14:17-18 — Pharaoh refuses to honor the Lord and is finally judged by the very power he used to crush others.

2 Kings 18-19 — Sennacherib brags about his conquests and talks as if Israel's God is just another defeated local god.

2 Chronicles 26:16-21 — King Uzziah lets his success make him proud, crosses a line God had reserved for the priests, and refuses correction.

Esther 5-7 — Haman craves public honor, cannot stand being disrespected, and is destroyed by the very trap he built for someone else.

Acts 12:21-23 — Herod soaks up praise that treats his voice as a god's, and he is struck down.

A NOTE ON INTERPRETATION: Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 are often used to describe Satan's proud fall. But in their original setting, they are really about proud human kings. Don't make them your main proof-text for Satan's fall. 1 Timothy 3:6 more directly links conceit with the judgment the devil received.

The Many Disguises of Pride (Slide 12)

Pride is sneaky. It rarely wears a name tag. Here are some of the most common disguises.

Pride of the Mind (Intellectual Pride)

- Treating your own understanding as the final measure of what is true.
- Speaking confidently about things you do not actually know.
- Refusing correction because being corrected feels embarrassing.
- Using knowledge to feel superior instead of to serve people.
- Rejecting anything mysterious just because your mind cannot fully explain it.

1 Corinthians 8:1-3 — Knowledge by itself puffs a person up. Knowledge guided by love builds other people up.

Spiritual and Doctrinal Pride

- Ranking yourself above others because of your beliefs, experiences, morals, or ministry results.
- Assuming that belonging to a solid church automatically makes you a solid Christian.
- Correcting other people with impatience, or even enjoying making them feel small.
- Thinking that being right gives you permission to be harsh.
- Talking about grace mainly so people will admire how well you understand grace.

WARNING: You can be completely correct in your beliefs and still be proud about being correct. A proud defense of grace actually contradicts the grace you're defending.

Quiet Pride: Insecurity and Self-Protection

Not all pride is loud. Some of it looks like the opposite of pride — but it still keeps self at the center.

- Constantly worrying about what people think of you.
- Not being able to handle getting overlooked.
- Refusing to try anything that might expose a weakness.
- Fishing for compliments, reassurance, or praise.
- Feeling sorry for yourself when you don't get the credit you wanted.
- Getting very defensive when someone questions your motives or choices.

Bragging and constant insecurity look totally different on the outside. But both keep the spotlight on me. Real humility sets you free from needing to be either admired or endlessly reassured.

Controlling Pride

- Assuming everything depends on you.
- Treating your own way of doing things as the only right way.
- Refusing help, because accepting help means admitting you need it.
- Making plans as if God is not in control and as if you have no limits.

James 4:13-16 — Planning is not the problem. Planning as if God isn't part of the picture is what the Bible calls arrogant boasting.

Pride Reversed in Jesus Christ (Slide 13-14)

Philippians 2:3–11

Paul doesn't just command us to be humble. He shows us humility in the person and actions of Jesus. Jesus, who is fully God, did not treat his divine status as something to use for his own advantage. Instead he took the role of a servant, became truly human, obeyed all the way to death, and accepted the shame of the cross.

Four things to point out here:

- Jesus was truly God. His humility was not pretending to be less than he was.
- He never stopped being God. He added a true human nature and the role of a servant.
- His obedience moved downward toward the cross, not upward toward applause.
- The Father is the one who lifted Jesus back up. Jesus did not grab honor for himself.

CONNECTION TO JESUS: The Council of Chalcedon (AD 451) taught that Jesus is one person with two complete natures — fully God and fully human. This keeps Philippians 2 from being reduced to a nice story about a good teacher. The one who humbled himself is the eternal Son of God.

Adam and Christ Side by Side (Slide 15)

Adam	Christ
Reached for God-like independence.	Accepted the role of a servant.
Disobeyed in a garden.	Obedied through the garden of Gethsemane and the cross.
Grabbed at forbidden greatness.	Refused to use his divine status selfishly.
Brought guilt and death.	Brings forgiveness and life.
Hid and blamed others.	Openly carried the blame that belonged to others.

Romans 5:12–19 — Adam's one act of disobedience made many people sinners. Christ's obedience gives righteousness and life.

1 Corinthians 15:45–49 — Christ is the "last Adam" — the head of a brand-new humanity.

The Kingdom's Upside-Down Pattern

Over and over, God's kingdom follows the same surprising order:

- Down before up.
- Serving before being honored.
- The cross before the crown.

- Suffering before glory.
- Death before resurrection.

Matthew 20:25–28 — Greatness in Jesus' kingdom is measured by servant-style love, not by bossing people around.

Matthew 23:11–12 — Those who lift themselves up will be brought low; those who humble themselves will be lifted up.

Pride and the Good News of Grace (Slide 16-17)

Being Saved Leaves No Room for Bragging

Romans 3:27–28 — Since we are made right with God through faith and not by our own works, there is nothing left to brag about.

Ephesians 2:8–10 — Salvation is a gift of grace received through faith. It doesn't come from us or our works. Good works come afterward, as fruit God prepared for us.

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 — God saves people in a way that flips human status upside down, so our only boast is in the Lord.

Galatians 6:14 — Paul's one boast is the cross of Christ.

DOCTRINE — SAVED BY FAITH ALONE: A sinner brings no goodness that puts God in his debt. Christ's righteousness is the reason God accepts us. Faith simply receives Christ; it doesn't buy him. Good works are the fruit of salvation, not the price of it.

God's Grace Humbles Us (Slide 18)

- God chose to save us out of grace, not because we were somehow better — Romans 9:10–16.
- Being born again is a work of the Holy Spirit, not something we produce — John 3:3–8.
- Even faith and repentance are gifts from God — Acts 11:18; Philippians 1:29.
- Christ keeps and protects his people — John 10:27–29.
- God finishes the good work he starts in us — Philippians 1:6.

TEACHING TIP: These grace truths are not a new reason to feel superior. They actually remove every reason to boast, and they lead straight to Paul's praise in Romans 11:33–36.

Hard Times Also Humble Us (Slide 19)

2 Corinthians 1:8–9 — Hardship teaches believers to stop trusting themselves and to trust God, who raises the dead.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 — Paul's 'thorn' kept him humble and let Christ's strength show up through his weakness.

Hebrews 12:5-11 — God's loving discipline exposes our sin and trains us in holiness.

1 Peter 5:6-7 — Handing your worries to God is an act of humility, because it gives up the illusion that you are in control.

Growing in Holiness Puts Pride to Death

Being born again does not instantly delete pride. The Holy Spirit begins a lifelong work of killing sin and reshaping how we think. God uses ordinary tools to do it:

- Scripture exposes what is really in our hearts — Hebrews 4:12-13.
- Correction breaks through the lies we tell ourselves — Proverbs 9:8-9.
- Christian community reveals our selfish ambition — Philippians 2:1-4.
- Prayer trains us to depend on God — Matthew 6:9-13.
- Confession gives up the effort to keep up appearances — James 5:16.

Pride in Church History (Slide 20-22)

Across many centuries and traditions, Christian teachers agreed on one thing: pride is far more than bad manners. They described it as love pointed in the wrong direction, resistance to grace, and a refusal to admit we depend on God.

Quick Overview

Teacher / Period	What they added about pride	Main source
Augustine (AD 354-430)	Pride turns a person away from God and makes self the thing they love most.	The City of God, Books XIV & XIX
Council of Chalcedon (AD 451)	The one who humbles himself in Philippians 2 is truly God and truly human — this is salvation, not just a good example.	Definition of Chalcedon
Gregory the Great (c. 540-604)	Pride is like a "queen" that gives orders to all the other sins.	Moralia in Job, Book XXXI
Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)	Pride is wanting your own greatness in the wrong way. Greatness itself is fine; wanting it out of order is the sin.	Summa Theologiae II-II, Q. 162
Martin Luther (1483-1546)	The cross tears down our attempts to earn glory through power, smarts, or good works.	Heidelberg Disputation, Theses 19-22
John Calvin (1509-1564)	Truly knowing God and truly knowing yourself go together. Seeing God's greatness shows us how	Institutes I.1; II.2

Teacher / Period	What they added about pride	Main source
	small and needy we are.	
1689 Baptist Confession	Our sin, God's call, our being made right, and our growth in holiness all point glory to God's grace, not to us.	Chapters 6, 10, 11, 13, 16
Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758)	Spiritual pride secretly compares your progress to others. True humility sees God's beauty and its own total need for grace.	Religious Affections, Part III, Sign VI

Augustine: Pride Is Love Aimed Wrong

Augustine described two 'cities,' each built on a different kind of love. The earthly city is built on love of self, even to the point of ignoring God. The heavenly city is built on love of God, which puts everything else in its right place. So for Augustine, pride is not just thinking too highly of yourself. It is loving yourself as if you were the most important thing in the universe.

WHY THIS MATTERS: Augustine's debate with a teacher named Pelagius exposed a deeper kind of pride: the belief that broken people can fix themselves without God's grace doing the real work.

Gregory and Aquinas: Pride as Root and Disorder

Gregory called pride the 'queen' that commands all the other sins. Aquinas gave a careful definition: pride is wanting your own greatness in a disordered, wrong-relationship way. This is helpful because it protects us from fake humility. Christians do not have to pretend they have no talents or gifts. They just need to receive those gifts under God and use them in love.

True Humility	Pride	Fake Humility
Sees gifts as received from God.	Treats gifts as self-made.	Pretends the gift doesn't even exist.
Takes responsibility under God.	Uses responsibility to dominate.	Dodges responsibility to look modest.
Uses excellence to serve others.	Uses excellence for self-glory.	Acts as if being excellent is suspicious.

Luther and Calvin: Grace Against Glory

Luther's 'theology of the cross' confronts the desire to find our worth in visible power, cleverness, and religious achievement. Calvin ties true knowledge of God to honest knowledge of self. Together, the Reformers pointed believers away from trusting their own merit and toward the finished work of Christ.

The 1689 Confession and Jonathan Edwards

- Chapter 6: humanity is broken by sin and bent toward it.
- Chapter 10: God calling us to himself is an act of grace, not a reward for being more responsive.
- Chapter 11: being made right with God rests on Christ's record, not our own.
- Chapter 13: growth in holiness happens through Christ's Word and Spirit.
- Chapter 16: our good works can never put God in our debt; they are acceptable only through Christ.

Edwards adds a sharp warning for the church: spiritual pride can speak in the language of humility. You can spot it in constant comparing, in secretly enjoying your own progress, in impatience with weaker Christians, and in wanting to be the expert in all things spiritual. Real gospel humility is busy admiring God, resting in Christ, and admitting how much it needs grace.

A Self-Check for Pride (Slide 23)

Walk through these questions slowly and honestly. The goal is repentance, not beating yourself up — and definitely not diagnosing everyone around you.

- Do I get defensive when someone corrects me?
- Do I assume that disagreeing with me means disrespecting me?
- Can I admit a specific sin without instantly explaining why I did it?
- Do I secretly enjoy it when someone else fails?
- Am I bothered when someone else gets the recognition?
- Do I think certain small or unnoticed jobs are beneath me?
- Do I need people to know what I accomplished?
- Do I compare my strengths to other people's weaknesses?
- Do I listen to understand, or just wait for my turn to talk?
- Does my prayer life actually show that I depend on God?
- Can I accept help without feeling embarrassed?
- Can I say, "I was wrong," and then stop, without adding a defense?
- Does what I know about God make me more patient and loving, or less?
- Do I confuse my personal preferences with actual Bible commands?
- Am I more worried about looking godly than about becoming godly?
- Can I be genuinely glad when God uses someone else more than he uses me?

Putting Pride to Death and Growing in Humility (Slide 24-25)

1. Look at How Great God Is

Isaiah 6:1-7; 40:12-31; Revelation 4-5 — Pride shrinks when we see God more clearly — his holiness, greatness, wisdom, and worth.

The cure for pride is not staring at yourself even harder. It is looking up at God until you, your sin, his grace, and your neighbor all fall back into their proper size.

2. Remember That Everything Is a Gift

John 3:27; 1 Corinthians 4:7; James 1:17 — Your ability, your opportunities, your endurance, and your results are all gifts from God.

- God gave the ability.
- God provided the opportunity.
- God kept you alive and gave you strength.
- God placed teachers, family, and helpers around you.
- God allowed the outcome to happen.

3. Keep Looking at the Cross

The cross tells us two things at once: we are more sinful than our pride wants to admit, and we are more loved than our shame can imagine. We could not save ourselves, but Christ freely gave himself for us. So the cross destroys both proud boasting and hopeless self-hatred.

4. Confess Without Making Excuses

- "I sinned."
- "What I did was wrong."
- "I have no excuse."
- "Will you forgive me?"
- "How can I make this right?"

TRY THIS: Notice how often the word 'but' turns a confession back into a defense ('I'm sorry, but...'). Real confession names the wrong and seeks to make peace — without bargaining to protect your reputation.

5. Welcome Correction and Serve Quietly

Proverbs 9:8-9; 27:5-6 — Not every criticism is fair, but every criticism is a chance to examine yourself.

Matthew 6:1-4; John 13:1-17 — Serve in places where no one will thank you, no one can pay you back, and the work seems ordinary.

- Do a needed task without telling anyone you did it.
- Ask a trusted friend where you tend to get defensive.
- Give credit to others out loud, in public.
- On purpose, be glad when someone else is honored.
- Let someone help you instead of always being the helper.

6. Hand Your Worries to God

Anxiety is not always pride. But anxious, controlling behavior can reveal a belief that everything depends on us. 1 Peter 5:6-7 links being humble with casting our worries on God. Letting go of that anxiety is a way of admitting that God is in control, wise, caring, and able where we are limited.

Discussion and Review (Slide 27)

1. Why is pride more serious than just having a big ego?
2. How does Genesis 3 show pride as a grab to decide right and wrong for ourselves?
3. What's the difference between being thankful for a gift and boasting in it?
4. Why is religious pride especially hard to notice in ourselves?
5. How does the Pharisee's prayer in Luke 18 reveal self-righteousness?
6. How does being saved by faith alone remove every reason to brag?
7. Why should God's grace make us humble instead of superior?
8. How can insecurity and self-pity actually be forms of self-centeredness?
9. What does Philippians 2 teach us about humility and being lifted up?
10. In what area of your life do you most resist correction, dependence, or unseen service?

Closing Summary (Slide 26-31)

Pride says...	The gospel answers...
I will climb to the top.	Christ went down in servant-like love.
I will make a name for myself.	Christ made himself nothing.
My success comes from me.	Every good gift is received from God.
I deserve the recognition.	Christ obeyed to death and let the Father lift him up.
I am not like other people.	Everyone has sinned and needs mercy.
I can stand before God on my own record.	Christ's record is the believer's only ground for acceptance.

FINAL TRUTH: Christian humility is not pretending you are worthless. It is knowing three things: you are a creature, not the Creator; you are a sinner saved completely by grace; and you are a servant whose greatest honor is simply belonging to Christ.

"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6

Closing Prayer Focus

- Confess self-reliance, self-righteousness, and looking down on others.
- Thank God that salvation leaves no room for bragging.
- Ask for grace to receive correction without getting defensive.
- Ask for real joy when others succeed and get recognized.
- Ask for willingness to serve where no one sees.
- Ask for the mind of Christ described in Philippians 2.

Appendix A: Key Scripture Index

Theme	Passages
Definition and warnings	Proverbs 8:13; 11:2; 13:10; 14:3; 16:18–19; 29:23
The fall and self-rule	Genesis 3:1–7; Romans 5:12–19
Group pride	Genesis 11:1–9
Success and forgetting God	Deuteronomy 8:11–18
Proud rulers	2 Kings 18–19; 2 Chronicles 26:16–21; Daniel 4:28–37; Acts 12:21–23
Religious pride	Matthew 23:5–12; Luke 18:9–14; 1 Corinthians 4:6–7
Christ-shaped humility	Matthew 20:25–28; Philippians 2:3–11
Grace removes bragging	Romans 3:27–28; 1 Corinthians 1:26–31; Ephesians 2:8–10
Humility that grows	Romans 12:3; James 4:6–10; 1 Peter 5:5–7

Appendix B: Historical and Theological Sources

- Augustine of Hippo. *The City of God*, especially Books XIV and XIX; *On Nature and Grace*.
- Council of Chalcedon. *The Definition of Faith* (AD 451).
- Gregory the Great. *Moralia in Job*, especially Book XXXI.
- Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologiae*, II-II, Question 162, "Pride."
- Martin Luther. *Heidelberg Disputation* (1518), especially Theses 19–22.
- John Calvin. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, especially I.1 and II.2.
- The Second London Baptist Confession of Faith (1677/1689), Chapters 6, 10, 11, 13, and 16.
- Jonathan Edwards. *A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections*, Part III, Sign VI.

Teacher Notes

- Read the main Bible passages aloud from the translation your class normally uses.
- This lesson puts many passages in its own words so you can explain what they teach without printing long blocks of a copyrighted translation.
- The historical teachers are used as helpful witnesses and conversation partners — never as equal in authority to Scripture.
- Where traditions differ, help students separate the shared Christian diagnosis of pride from each tradition's more specific teaching on grace and salvation.