



## **Group Discussion Guide: The Test of Success | June 27, 2021**

(~90 minutes needed)

### **Begin with Scripture + prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Read all of Daniel 4 and 5** to begin your time together. *This week's topic is "The Danger of Pride". The purpose of this reading is to remind ourselves of the story of Daniel and his friends as they were newly exiled in Babylon after the Fall of Jerusalem. A great way to read this much text is to have each person read several verses and take turns around the circle.*

After you finish reading the Scripture, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together— that your conversation, your words, etc. will be pleasing to God and uplifting to others.

**Stay together to answer these questions as a debrief of the sermon (40 minutes).** *There are several questions here, pick some out that you think your group needs to talk through.*

- From this week's sermon, what challenged you? Inspired you? Grabbed your attention?
- How do you see pride show up in Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4? How do you see it show up in Belshazzar in Daniel 5? How does their response to pride differ? What is the distinct difference in the outcome of their situation as a direct result of this difference?
- **Read Proverbs 16:18.** How do you see this verse illustrated in Daniel 4 and 5? How have you seen it illustrated in your own life?
- What evidence of humility do you see in Daniel's character? How have you seen his humility show up in the previous chapters? How does it show up in these?
- **Read I Peter 5:4-7.** What does humility currently look like in your own life? Where is God inviting you to be humble?
- **Read Philippians 2:1-11.** Jesus was the ultimate example of humility. Paul paints a picture of Christ's humility in this passage and invites us to have Jesus' attitude of



humility. What will it take for you to cooperate with his humility? How can you cultivate this type of Christlike character in your own life?

- **Read I John 2:15-17.** Where does a love for the things of the world add fuel to the fire of pride? Where are you loving the world? How does humility make more space for the love of God to flow through you? Where have you seen this displayed in your own life or the life of someone else?
- In what ways has community shaped your humility? How has this group helped shape your character to become more Christ-like? How can they help you in growing humility?

Before transitioning to smaller same-gender groups, spend some time praising God. We know the remedy for pride is praise. Use David's prayer found in **1 Chronicles 29:10-13**. Read through the passage slowly together and then enter into a time of prayer where you voice your praise out loud together.

**Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (10-15 minutes)** *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don't feel like you have to use this list as a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- Where is pride showing up in your life? What is the situation and how are you responding to it?
- What has your prayer time been like this week?
- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?
- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- How can we pray for you?

**Finish with intercessory prayer in your split groups (10 minutes)**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.