

# Small Group Discussion Guide

*for leaders* (see below for participants' guide)

## Gathering Time

- Make sure newcomers are welcomed and engaged in conversation
- Offer a snack and drink if the setting is right (i.e. a home)
- Arrange seating so everyone in the group can see each other

## Getting Acquainted

- **This week's topic is humility (vs. pride). What is the most humbling experience you can think of from your life?**
  - NOTE: Funny, embarrassing stories welcome.
- **How would you define humility?**

## Discussion Starter Video

- To view the video, go to [christchurchil.org/future-you-videos](http://christchurchil.org/future-you-videos). Choose the title, HUMILITY. If you open the video in Vimeo, there is a download option to get the video onto your computer. Or you can just play it from the site without downloading.
- The videos are designed as discussion starters to be used at the beginning of the Bible Exploration.

## Bible Exploration

- **Are you familiar with the events of Daniel 4-5? Share what details you remember about the humbling of kings Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar.**
  - NOTE: Give people opportunity to reflect on what they know of the story. Then thumb or scroll through Daniel 4:4 – 5:30 hitting the highlights and filling in the gaps.
- **What are specific examples of pride in the words and actions of Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar? How are the two kings similar? How are they different?**
- **Proverbs 16:18 says “pride goes before a destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” To what degree does pride lead directly to the downfall of the kings? Can you think of a modern-day example of pride going before a fall?**

- NOTE. Examples of public figures or well-known personalities can be helpful, but personal stories are always better because they help us apply truth to ourselves rather than others.
- **Contrast Daniel's words and actions with the kings'. In what specific ways do we see humility in him? How did it set him apart from the other wise men and leaders?**
- **Mike Woodruff points out that being humble solves a lot of problems and being proud causes them. Have you found this to be true in your life? Why or why not?**
- **What problems or situations are you facing that require you to be humble in order to navigate them well? In what ways do you tend to respond in pride?**
- **How do we get humility?**
  - NOTE. In his sermon, Mike identifies three ways.
    - **Serve others**—do something an earlier, more prideful version of you, would think is “beneath you”
    - **Focus on God**—stop making gods out of other things and look to Him to guide our thoughts and direct our steps
    - **Confess our sins**—recognize we are broken and sinful, yet loved and accepted when we admit our sin and follow Christ
- **What insights or actions do you sense the Lord leading you to apply in your life this week?**

## Prayer

- Invite the group to participate in a time of “conversational” prayer. Each person may pray as often as he or she wants, but only 1-2 short sentences on one topic at a time. This lowers the barrier of participation for people unaccustomed to praying with others.

## Wrap-Up

- Be sure to end the formal conversation on time.
- Thank newcomers for joining you, and invite everyone to the next meeting.
- Encourage people to linger for a few minutes, and do your best to have a personal interaction with each individual before he or she leaves.

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## *for participants*

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### Discussion Starter Video

### Bible Exploration

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## Prayer

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