

## WEEK ONE - HUMBLE

### Devotion:

"You come of the Lord Adam and the Lady Eve," said Aslan. "And that is both honor enough to erect the head of the poorest beggar, and shame enough to bow the shoulders of the greatest emperor in earth." ~ C.S. Lewis "*Prince Caspian*"

"The victorious Christian neither exalts nor downgrades himself. His interests have shifted from self to Christ." ~ A. W. Tozer

What a humbling statement made by Aslan to Prince Caspian. As humans, we are a part of the greatest redemption story of all time. Where Christ came down from his place of glory at the right hand of the Father. HUMBLED himself and became an infant born in a nondescript place in a feed box for animals. He then allowed himself to be sacrificed for our salvation. His sacrifice brings every one of us into the redemption story and gives each of us worth.

However, our sin is also the reason that we needed a Savior to rescue us. We continually fail to live a life worthy of God who created us. We sin without even knowing we are sinning and even when we try, we cannot control our own sinful desires. The consequence of our sin is death, yet we have been given the gift of eternal life because of the death of Christ on the cross. While the cross is a symbol of horrific pain, torture, and death; to Christians the cross brings hope and remembrance of the restoration with God that we have been given.

A closer look at this quote from C.S. Lewis shows that even as we are solely created in God's image and the first people walked in oneness with God in the Garden of Eden, this honor is so meaningful as to erect the head of the poorest amongst us.

Yet we also carry the shame. A shame so devastating that it ripped us apart from our Creator and no matter how hard we try can never be repaired without the sacrifice of one who is supremely holy. We can only escape this heritage by faith through grace. This brings even the most pride-filled among us to their knees before the feet of Jesus, who gave himself up so that we can be brought back into His loving embrace.

So too our pride attempts to place us in a seat of authority while falsely believing that we are supplanting God from His rightful seat as the authority in our lives. We daily commit sin, similar to Adam and Eve, without concerning ourselves with the fact that each one of these sins were heaped upon the shoulders of Christ and he bore them all for us upon the cross. Our actions, whether we admit it or not, constantly break the heart of God each time we fail to follow His will.

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### Discussion:

What do you place in authority over your life?



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Humility is not the same as self-deprecation. Instead, it means placing our thoughts, words, and deeds more in line with the will and word of God.

What are some ways that you can ask for God's help to be more humble?

God actively loves and cares for each one of us regardless of our actions. Christ's sacrifice on the cross is not a conditional saving act based on our actions but defiantly states IT IS FINISHED and death has no power over believers.

With this in mind read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21.

What does being humble mean in association with these verses?

What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?

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### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to us. Thank you for giving us hope and life through his work on cross especially when we don't deserve it. We worship you and glorify your name because of the gracious mercy you've given to us. Help us to always remain faithful to you. Help our hearts and sinful flesh not to lead us along a path of unrighteousness but instead guide us along the path you have made for us. All this we pray in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

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### Day One:

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#### Read:

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. – **1 Peter 5:5-11**

#### Examine/Apply:

In what ways am I being called to humble myself before God and others today?

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What does this look like in action for me today, tomorrow, and for the remainder of the Lenten season?

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#### Pray:

God, Please show me your will so that I may be more humble before you and others. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

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## WEEK ONE - HUMBLE

### Day Two:

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#### Read:

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them. – **Proverbs 11:2-3**

#### Examine/Apply:

Integrity is the quality of being honest in all of my actions and having strong moral principles or values. With that definition in mind:

Where is my integrity the strongest?

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Where is it the weakest?

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How can I make my weakness a strength?

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#### Pray:

Heavenly Father, guide my ways so that I am a person of integrity in all of that I do and in turn grant me the wisdom of humility. Amen.

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### Day Three:

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#### Read:

Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. – **Isaiah 66:1-2**

#### Examine/Apply:

When am I most willing to be humble and contrite in spirit?

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Does my pride get in the way of my trembling at God's word?

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#### Pray:

Almighty God, I long to tremble at your word and at your mighty name. Deliver me, Lord, from myself and create a humble and contrite spirit within me. Amen.

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## WEEK ONE - HUMBLE

### Day Four:

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#### Read:

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

– James 1:19-22

#### Examine/Apply:

Am I really open to receiving the word which is able to save my soul and has been given to me by grace? Or am I quick to speak and fail to live out God's will for my life?

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#### Pray:

Prince of Peace, Bring your peace into my life. Give me the strength to listen to your word; setting myself aside so that the will of the Father is visible in my life. I humbly know that I am undeserving of the grace that you give to me and I praise you for your love and mercy which have no end. Amen.

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## WEEK ONE - HUMBLE

### Day Five:

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#### Read:

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

– Matthew 26:39-44

#### Examine/Apply:

As Jesus prayed that the will of the Father be done, what would it look like in my life if I truly prayed for the will of God to be done before my own?

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Am I willing to submit and humble myself before Him regardless of what His will is?

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#### Pray:

Gracious Father, I know that I struggle to be humble and often fail to put your will before mine. Show me your will in all things and shine your love through me so that all people may see you in all that I do. To the glory of your holy name. Amen.

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### Recap:

Humility is a foreign concept for so many people today. Too often I look at my own actions and compare them to the actions of other people and more often than not the scale of judgment is heavily weighted in my favor. Yet true humility is not comparing my sin with that of another but recognizing that I am the chief of all sinners. My sin alone was enough to build a chasm between me and God. My sin alone was enough to put Jesus on the cross. It is from this place of understanding that I can truly begin to ask God to grant me the strength to be His witness and His servant to all people. For where I am weak there He is strong. Thank you God, for sending Your Son Jesus to rescue me from my weaknesses.

In what ways have I put the daily reflections into practice?

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What are some of the outcomes?

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What areas of my life do I need to ask God to humble me in?

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