

LESSON 10

THE HONORED GUEST

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Pharisees

The Pharisees were a highly respected sect in the community and they had great influence in the synagogues. They kept the written law, as well as many oral traditions.

Despite this, they had completely lost sight of their goal as religious leaders. They sought for distinction and praise by outward demonstrations of piety and observance of external rites.

Even though the Lord openly rebuked and challenged their proud attitudes, love of money, ambition, jealousy, and hypocrisy, their stubbornness prevented them from seeing the truth. Instead, they made the Lord their enemy and used every opportunity to trick and trap Him.

Seat of Honor

In Jesus' time, it was the Jewish custom to arrange dinner seating by setting couches in a U-shape, with a low table in front of them. Guests reclined on the left elbow and they would be seated according to their status, with the place of honor being the seat at the center of the U.

The farther away the seat was from the seat of honor, the lower the person's status. If arrivals had placed themselves in places of honor and then someone more distinguished arrived, they would be asked to move to lower seats.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Jesus taught a very important principle in this story. He warned people from seeking honor. People with such attitudes do not please God. Rather, He wants everyone to be humble.

Your students are at an age when they are easily influenced. They may be swayed by their friends. Perhaps they want the newest toys because everyone has them. They may even only wear a certain brand of clothing because wearing that brand means that they are cool.

Their desire to be seen as important is like the proud man who sought after honor and prestige. Remind your students that God wants them to be humble. Instead of trying to please people and having the "best" of everything, encourage your students to focus on developing the virtues that God desires.

BIBLE TEXT

Luke 14:1, 7-14

BIBLE TRUTH

God opposes the proud but exalts the humble.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To reinforce the students' understanding of the qualities of those who are proud and those who are humble.
2. To instruct the students on the consequences of pride.

MEMORY VERSE

"The humble in spirit will retain honor."

(Proverbs 29:23b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. We are gathered here today to worship You and learn about Your teachings. Today, we will learn about the humble and the proud. We know You want us to be humble, Lord. Remove the pride that is within our hearts. Open our hearts to listen to Your words. Only by being humble can we please You and be blessed by You. May all the glory be unto Your name. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

- host:** the person who invites the guests
- proud:** arrogant, full of oneself; to think highly of oneself
- humble:** meek, lowly; opposite of proud
- honored:** worthy, respected, special
- exalted:** to be raised in honor and praise
- Pharisee:** religious leaders during Jesus' time—although they followed the law carefully, Jesus often rebuked them because they loved money, praise, power and status; they saw Jesus as their enemy

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about two people who wanted to build houses for themselves. One person was very wise and one was foolish. Where did the wise person build his house? Yes, he built it upon the rock. Why was it wise to build on the rock? The rock provides the house a solid and secure foundation, so it will not be easily moved when storms and floods come.

And the foolish man, where did he build his house? (He built it on the sand.) Right, and why was it foolish to build on the sand? Sand is an unsteady foundation. A house built on sand is not secure and will fall.

Jesus told this story to teach us to be like the wise man and to build our faith on the Lord Jesus. God is a secure foundation, like the rock on which the man built his house.

Through the Bible, Jesus tells us that if we listen and do His teachings, we will be like the wise man. If we are like the foolish man and do not listen and follow Jesus' teachings, our faith will be weak and fall, just like a house built on shifting sand.

Today, we are going to learn about a parable that Jesus told about two guests who were invited to attend a wedding feast.

BIBLE STORY

One day, Jesus was invited to dinner at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees. [Explain the meaning of a Pharisee.]

As the other guests arrived, they began to choose their seats. Jesus noticed that the guests chose the best seats at the table. The best seats were the seats closest to the host where everybody could see them.

Jesus decided to tell a parable to the guests.

The Best Seat

Once, there was an important man who gave a wedding feast. He invited many people. When the guests arrived, they fought for the seats near the host at the head of the table. These guests wanted everyone to see their importance.

Two Different Guests

The first guest arrived at the feast. He thought to himself, "I am more important and respected than the other guests. I deserve to sit in the best seat."

So he took the seat of honor next to the host at the center of the table and sat there. All the guests could see him sitting next to the host, which made him feel very important.

The second guest arrived at the feast. He thought to

himself, "There are so many important people here at this dinner. I'll take a seat at the end of the table and allow the more important guests to sit at the center of the table."

This seat was at the far end of the table so that none of the guests could see him, but he did not mind. He left the best seat for people more important than himself.

The Host Speaks

After the guests sat in their seats, the host came to greet them. The first guest became very excited. He thought to himself, "I am in the best seat at the table. Everyone will see that I am sitting next to the host. They'll be impressed that I am such an important person." So, he sat in his seat tall and proud.

Instead of stopping at the first guest's seat, the host walked to the end of the table to the second guest sitting in the lowest seat. The host said to this man, "Friend, go up higher [to the head of the table with me]." The host continued to say, "Do not sit here at the end of the table. I would like you to sit with me."

How do you think the second guest felt when he was asked to sit with the host? Yes, he was so happy that the host thought so highly of him. The guest got up from his seat and walked with the host to the seat of honor. As

they walked, the rest of the guests looked at this lowly guest with respect and honor. When they got to the seat of honor, they found it occupied.

The Proud Man Is Humbled

The host was puzzled as to why someone had sat in the seat of honor. The host said to the first guest, "I'm happy that you are able to come to the feast, but I will have to ask you to move," the host asked politely. "I want this man to have this seat." [Can you all quickly draw how the man must have looked? Which color would you use to color his face?]

Indeed, the man's face turned as red as a tomato! He was so ashamed and embarrassed. He had no choice but to get up and walk to the only seat left in the house, the one furthest away from the host at the very end of the table. With his head hung low, he walked to the lowliest

seat with everyone watching him.

At the head of the table, the second guest was enjoying the company of the host and feeling very honored. With everyone properly seated, the feast began.

God Exalts the Humble

Jesus used this parable to teach a very important lesson. Let's read Luke 14:11: "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

We must not be proud. We should not try to think we are more special, better, or important than others. We should not try to "show off" like the proud guest. If we do, God will humble us.

Instead, we should be humble. We should follow the example of the second guest who was humble and not seek praise and honor from others. If we do this, God will exalt, bless, and reward us.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blanks=/Questions to Think About

1. The man who invited everyone to the feast was the _____ (host).
2. The proud man took the _____ (best) seat.
3. The _____ (humble) man took the lowliest seat.
4. Jesus taught the guests not to be proud because the proud will not be blessed by God. True.
5. God only blesses the humble. True.
6. The host asked the proud man to sit in the best seat. False.
7. Why did the proud man choose the best seat? He felt that he was an important person. He wanted people to notice and praise him.
8. Why did the humble man choose the worst seat? He felt that there would be more important guests coming later who deserved to sit in the best seats. He did not like drawing attention to himself.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"The humble in spirit will retain honor." (Proverbs 29:23b)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Be Humble

Instructions

1. Prepare flash cards with the following statements written on them:

- I'm better than all of you at chess.
- Thank You, God, for helping me win the competition.
- I've won many trophies and medals already.
- Thanks, Dad, for getting me ready for the competition.

- No one can beat me!
- I've won some games and I've lost some, too.
- That's not fair. I should have won.
- The other player is pretty smart.
- The other player must have cheated.
- I just need to try my best.

2. Attach the flash cards onto the board with double-sided tape.
3. Draw two large stick figures on the board. Name one "Humble Henry" and the other "Proud Penelope."

Setting the Scene

It is the day of the school chess tournament. Both Humble Henry and Proud Penelope have entered into the competition. Here are flash cards with the things that Humble Henry and Proud Penelope said or thought. Let's read the flash cards together.

1. Have the students take turns to pick a flash card and read it aloud. Let the students decide as a class if Humble Henry or Proud Penelope is more likely to say or think what is written on the flash card. If they think it is Humble Henry, have the student stick the flash card next to Humble Henry. If they think it is Proud Penelope, have the student stick the flash card next to Proud Penelope.
2. At the end, review the students' answers. Working with the students, identify the characteristics of someone who is humble and someone who is proud.
3. Teach the students that a humble person will understand and do the following:
 - Everything is given by God.
 - See others' good points.
 - Do not think too highly of themselves.
 - Do not insist on their way.
 - Be thankful.

Scenarios

Read the following scenarios with your students. Then, discuss the reflection questions with them, and have them share their answers.

Michelle got an "A" on her oral exam. When she received the result, she was very happy and immediately said a prayer to thank God. As she was going home that day, excited to share this good news with her parents, she saw her friend Amy sitting on the bench with tears in her eyes. Michelle sat next to Amy and asked her what had happened. Amy told her that she had failed her oral exam and that the teacher had asked her to retake the exam next week. Amy was afraid to fail this exam again because she already tried her best on the first exam. She knew that her parents would be very disappointed if she failed this exam twice. After looking at Amy's report, Michelle said to Amy, "You were actually really close to passing the exam! See, the teacher said that you used your vocabulary well. You just need to have more confidence in yourself! If you want, I can help you practice for your retake. What do you think?" After talking to Michelle, Amy felt much better about retaking her exam next week. She asked Michelle, "How did you do on your exam?" Michelle answered, "Thank God, I didn't do too badly!"

Reflection Questions

1. **Is Michelle a humble person? How do you know?** Yes. Even though she received an excellent grade on her exam, she didn't boast about it. Instead, she prayed and thanked God. When she found out that Amy didn't pass her exam, not only did she compliment on the good comments Amy received from the teacher, she also offered to practice with her for her retake.
2. **How did Michelle's last answer show that she was a humble person?** Michelle could have told Amy that she got an "A" on her exam, but she didn't, because she was humble about it. Instead, she gave the glory to God and simply said that she didn't do too badly.

Margaret is a very good swimmer and has won many swimming competitions before. Last weekend, she won again and got a gold medal for her school in a statewide competition. She couldn't wait to tell all her friends about it. On Monday, she brought the gold medal to school and showed it to all her friends. She loved it every time a friend complimented her on her achievement. One of her friends said to her, "Did you know that Tina was actually in the competition with you too? But she lost in the very first round. If she sees your gold medal, she might not be very happy. Maybe you should put it away." But Margaret said to her, "Of course I know. Tina didn't even get into the semi-final. She wasn't that good. It was a very fair competition and she probably knew beforehand that she wasn't good enough to win, so there's nothing for her to be unhappy about. I don't have to hide my achievement because of her."

Reflection Questions

1. **Is Margaret a humble person?** How do you know? Margaret is not a humble person. On the contrary, she is very arrogant. She likes to show off and loves hearing compliments. She enjoys being in the spotlight.
2. **How did Margaret's last answer show that she was a proud person?** Not only did Margaret publicly say that Tina was not a good swimmer, she also didn't care about Tina's feelings. If she were more humble, she would not have insisted on her own way and would have put away her gold medal to avoid embarrassing Tina.

2. The Consequences of Pride

[Have each student think of something that they are particularly good at or proud of. The teacher may give the following examples.]

- Their possessions: allowance, new toy, or game
- Their appearance: a new dress, a new pair of sneakers
- Their achievements, talents, or gifts: playing an instrument, drawing, running faster than others, getting good grades on tests and homework

God has given and blessed us with all these to enjoy because He loves us. But it is wrong to use God's blessings as a reason to boast and look down on others. This is an example of pride, which displeases God. Instead, God wants us to humble ourselves and give all the glory to Him. The Bible clearly tells us that it is better to be humble (Prov 16:18). It is by His grace that we have received many blessings from God. All that we have does not belong to us, but to God. And because our blessings are gifts from God, we should not boast about our possessions, our achievements, or ourselves. If we are arrogant and always enjoy taking all the glory for ourselves, God will not be pleased. Just like in the parable, humble He will exalt the humble but bring the proud low. This is the consequence of pride that God will use to humble anyone who is proud and arrogant. Let me share a story with you.

Tony has been a part of the school's baseball team ever since he came to this school. This year, he is old enough to become team captain. He recently thought to himself, "I've had the best performance out of all the players ever since I joined. Every year, I score the most for the team and our coach always praises me. I am sure he will pick me as the team captain this year." One day, Tony and his friends were talking. One of them asked, "Who do you think our coach will pick to be the captain of our baseball team this year?" Immediately, Tony said, "Of course he will pick me! Don't you remember how he said that I was the best player in the team last year?" They discussed among themselves and they all agreed that their coach would pick Tony as their captain. Tony felt very proud and became arrogant.

A few days later, after their baseball practice, the coach announced to the team that Raymond would be their captain this year. Surprised, everyone asked the coach why he picked Raymond. The coach answered, "Every year, I pick someone who is humble and eager to learn to become the team's captain, someone who constantly wants to become a better baseball player. If a person thinks that he is already good enough, he will never strive to improve. Even though Raymond is not the best player in our team, I always see him practicing by himself. I think he will be a good motivator for our team!"

Tony felt ashamed of his arrogance. He was so sure that he would become the captain because of his outstanding performance, but his coach picked someone else who was more humble. His pride finally brought

him nothing but embarrassment.

Reflection Questions

- 1. How was Tony proud about himself?** He thought that he was the best player on his team and assumed that he would be picked as the team's captain.
- 2. Why did Tony feel ashamed when he found out that his coach had picked Raymond as the captain instead?** He felt ashamed because he had told everyone that he was certainly going to be the captain. He realized that he was being too arrogant.

Pride grows in our hearts. If we don't remove it, it will hurt those around us, as well as ourselves. God will not bless us if we have pride. James 4:6 tells us that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. God's grace is sufficient for us, for as long as we are humble, God will continue to bless us and guide us in our lives. But those who are the opposite will bear the consequences of pride. Moreover, God promised, "The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way" (Ps 25:9). If we want to draw closer God, it is very important for us to humble ourselves, because pride is a big obstacle that will keep us from following God and His ways. Students, how about your heart? Is your heart humbled so that God can teach you His ways? Is your heart humble enough to receive God's grace?

ACTIVITY

Be Humble

Objective: To enable students to realize that a humble person is sweet in God's eyes.

Materials

- Store-bought cookies (if time allows, make some homemade cookies)
- Icing tubes (various colors)
- Sprinkles
- Small candies

Instructions

Ask the students to list the characteristics of a humble person. Some examples are: thankful, glorifies God, and listens to God. Have the students write these characteristics on a cookie using an icing tube. [Students may need some assistance with this.]

Have the students decorate the cookie using the sprinkles and small candies. After the students are done decorating, they may eat the cookie.

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. False; he asked the humble man to sit in the best seat.
5. True
6. False; the proud man took the seat of honor.
7. Has qualities that are opposite of a humble person; arrogant; thinks highly of himself
8. A humble person:
 - Recognizes that everything is given by God.
 - Sees others' good points.
 - Does not think too highly of him/herself.
 - Does not insist on his/her own way.
 - Is thankful.
 - Does not like to "show off."
9. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 10—The Honored Guest

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God opposes the proud but exalts the humble.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To reinforce the students' understanding of the qualities of those who are proud and those who are humble.
2. To instruct the students on the consequences of pride.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.**Prayer:** Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Proverbs 29:23b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : The proud man chose the best seat because ____.
 - a. He felt that he was an important person. He wanted to show off and have people praise him.
 - b. The host was his best friend.
 - c. He wanted to be close to all the good food.

2. ____ : Jesus told this parable to remind us ____.
 - a. Not to choose the best seat
 - b. That the humble will be shamed and the proud will be honored
 - c. That the proud will be shamed and the humble will be honored

3. ____ : A humble person ____.
 - a. Will choose the worst seat
 - b. Does not like going to wedding feasts
 - c. Will give glory to God, look at others' good points, and not show off

True or False

4. The host asked the proud man to sit in the best seat. _____
5. Jesus taught the guests not to be proud because the proud will not be blessed by God. _____
6. The proud man took the lowest seat. _____

Short Answer

7. How does a proud person behave?

8. How does a humble person behave?

9. Is there something that makes you proud and that you need God to help you remove from your heart?
