

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

Andrew Murray was a 19th-century South African pastor who ministered for over 60 years in the Dutch Reformed Church. *Christianity Today* notes that “Murray wrote to interpret the Scriptures in such a way that Christians were free to believe and experience the grace of God. He believed that God had done everything necessary for people to live rich, productive, meaningful lives that participated in the life of God. The obstacles to such lives included half-hearted surrender to God, a lack of confidence in the anointing of the Spirit, and a deep-rooted skepticism about the power of prayer.”

An essential quality to overcome such obstacles was the attitude of humility and servanthood, which Murray called disciples to embrace. In his devotional book, *Humility*, Murray said:

The humble man seeks at all times to act up to the rule, "In honor preferring one another; Servants one of another; Each counting others better than himself Subjecting yourselves one to another." The question is often asked, how we can count others better than ourselves, when we see that they are far below us in wisdom and in holiness, in natural gifts, or in grace received. The question proves at once how little we understand what real lowliness of mind is. True humility comes when, in the light of God, we have seen ourselves to be nothing, have consented to part with and cast away self, to let God be all. The soul that has done this, and can say, "So have I lost myself in finding You", no longer compares itself with others. It has given up forever every thought of self in God's presence; it meets its fellow-men as one who is nothing, and seeks nothing for itself; who is a servant of God, and for His sake a servant of all. A faithful servant may be wiser than the master, and yet retain the true spirit and posture of the servant. The humble man looks upon every, the feeblest and unworthiest, child of God, and honors him and prefers him in honor as the son of a King. The spirit of Him who washed the disciples' feet, makes it a joy to us to be indeed the least, to be servants one of another.

Doubtless, Murray was inspired by Paul's words to the church of Philippi in Philippians 2. Indeed, if the church is to be better together, we must be marked by an attitude of humility which drives us to a reality of Christ-centered service.

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- How might the average resident of the CSRA describe “humility”? How do you know when you've encountered someone who is genuinely “humble”? What is the opposite of humility?
- Is humility an attractive quality in another person? Why? It is said that “kids can smell a fake a mile away.” The truth is, it's not just kids who feel this way. Why is false humility so off-putting?



- Each of the following passages highlight the quality of humility in the life of a Christ-follower. Read each passage and share how they describe humility.

- Proverbs 15:33
- Matthew 18:1-4
- Matthew 23:10-12

- Philippians 2:3-11
- James 4:6-10
- 1 Peter 5:5-7

Using these passages and the descriptions you recorded, construct a definition for humility that honors God.

- From where does true humility come? How does a wayward disciple realign himself or herself with humility that honors God? Share a time when God made you aware of your lack of humility and how He brought you back to embrace humility.
- Paul wrote nine New Testament letters to churches. Either directly or indirectly Paul regularly called on churches and disciples of Christ to be humble servants. Why is humility essential to effective Gospel ministry?
- There is no perfect church. But for purposes of this question, envision a church whose members are marked by their humility. What things would be true inside the walls of that church? How would that church be able to make a difference in the community in which God had placed it? Now think about your life of faith and the contribution that you make to your local church. In what areas are you making a difference because you exhibit humility that honors God? In which areas do you need the Holy Spirit to re-direct you?

Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.

If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud. And a bigish step, too. At least, nothing whatever can be done before it. If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

How I must obey Christ...

- Examine yourself. As a result of this study, identify a specific area in which you need to obey Christ this week.
- How do you specifically need to obey Christ in this area this week?
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has He proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

Pray Together

Read and pray through Philippians 2:1-5.



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