Love Does
Part 3 – Love is Humble
Leader Guide

True love requires that we put others above ourselves. We must constantly serve and sacrifice for them if we want to truly love the way Jesus did. The foundation of being able to love like this is humility. In today’s study guide, we dive into what humility is and how can we adopt Biblical humility in today’s culture.

**Jump Start**

*Leader: This section is designed to get discussions started, examine God’s truth, and apply it to our week.*

1. Share an embarrassing or humbling moment.

2. *The foundation of a great life is humility.* Read [1 Corinthians 13:4](https://bible.org/1cor-13v4). What is humility? In what ways does our culture promote being boastful or proud? In what environments /situations have you been boastful or proud?

   **Leader’s Note:** Humility is the ability to think about others before ourselves. It is not thinking we are bad at everything or worthless: it’s not low self-esteem. It is simply not thinking too much about ourselves, especially relative to others. At our very core, we are self-involved. Studies show (Psychology Today) that our brain is more active when performing self-absorbed tasks. Our culture promotes self-help, self-improvement, and “selfies”. In order to grow in humility, we must realize it is against our very nature.

3. *Humility brings honor.* Read [Proverbs 29:23 and Proverbs 15:33](https://bible.org/prov-29v23). Why does humility lead to honor? Have you seen any examples of this happening? If we believe pride leads to a fall and humility leads to honor, why are we still drawn towards getting attention through prideful endeavors? What areas of your life do you most seek honor (work, home, among friends)? Are you trying to gain honor through humility or pride in these areas?

   **Leader’s Note:** We typically try to gain honor through prideful means. We point out our accomplishments, flaunt our titles, and constantly think about how people perceive us. These prideful means do lead to a level (though often fake) of public acclaim: that is why we keep coming back to them. However, humility brings about honor from God, honor that we may not receive during our worldly lives. In fact, people on earth may not appreciate our humility or our sacrifice (just look at the life of Jesus), but God WILL HONOR our humility in this life for all in eternity.

4. *Humility brings grace.* Read [James 4:3-10](https://bible.org/jam-4v3). What does “humbling yourself before God” mean, according to this passage? Why is humility necessary to receive the full grace of God? What prevents us from fully feeling the weight of our sin and humbling ourselves before God?

   **Leader’s Note:** If we do not fully acknowledge our sin and the severity of it, how can we fully receive the grace of Jesus and live in His freedom? The two go hand in hand. God wants us to be free of our sins, but if we never acknowledge our bondage, how can we be free? We rarely experience the repentance seen in James 4:9 for two reasons: 1) We don’t view sin as a big deal today. We are so quick to remember Jesus forgave us that we forget the weight of sin from which He has set us free. Sin is a big
It is such a big deal that God had to sacrifice His Son to atone for it. 2) We don’t want to acknowledge to ourselves the weight of our mistakes and the harm we’ve caused. We try to move on quickly and never deal with the mistakes in our own lives.

5. **Humility Heals.** Read [2 Chronicles 7:12-15](#). This passage occurs shortly after Israel (under Solomon’s leadership) has completed the temple. The people are still suffering and are seeking God, looking for answers. Why does God ask that His people humble themselves before He brings healing? In what areas of your life are you seeking healing or restoration? Have you humbled yourself (to His plan, acknowledged your sin, etc.) as you prepare for His healing?

*Leader’s Note:* If there is a loving, good God, why do bad things happen? This question has plagued Christianity for centuries. While God does not cause every disaster or bad thing (sin is part of the world and it is obviously not from God), He certainly allows bad things to happen. Sin also has consequences. He desires that we turn whole heartedly to Him BEFORE the miracle so that we know Who is the source of our healing.

6. **Humility Heals.** This passage describes a great commander and warrior (Naaman) seeking to be healed from leprosy (or a similar skin disease). When the king of Israel did not know how to bring healing, the prophet Elisha steps in to help on behalf of God. Read [2 Kings 5:10-14](#). Why were Elisha’s instructions so humbling for Naaman? Though those around him claim this is a simple task, why did Naaman view this as a difficult task? Sometimes, being humble is simply to acknowledge that something is wrong, and we don’t have the answers. Why is this so difficult for us?

*Leaders Note:* Remember Naaman is a warrior. He is strong, proud, and has defended others for most his life. Now, however, he must ask for help. He doesn’t have the answers and he can’t fix the problem. For many of us, acknowledging a helpless situation is the most humbling thing we can do. We often hide our failures, guilt, or messy situations, even if we did nothing wrong. We don’t want people to feel pity for us or look down on us, so we keep our distance and our secrets. It is more comfortable that way. However, if we want to receive God’s full healing, He desires that our healing be on display for all to see His great power and plans.

**Deeper**

*Leader:* This section is designed for further use in your Life Group or for personal study. These can also be used as discussion points and ways to stay connected with your group throughout the week.

Looking through the Old Testament, we see that many of the prophets, kings, and leaders of Israel desired a closer connection with God. They wanted to be in His Presence and experience Him in a real way. Even though many of them performed or saw great miracles, they never got to fully experience God’s love the way we can today. The love we have the opportunity to experience every day is exactly what many of our Old Testament “heroes” sought. Check out these passages as we better understand the way we can experience God’s love.

7. **Read Genesis 3:22-24.** This passage tells what happened shortly after the first sin in Eden. Why did God need to banish Adam and Eve? Do you consider this extreme? Why is this moment so significant? Read also [Ezekiel 28:16-17](#). Why must God deal with pride in us?

*Leader Notes:* They were banished so that they would not have knowledge AND immortality. It marks the first time that God had to create a distance between humans and Himself. Prior to this, He walked
in the garden with Adam and Eve. An interesting side conversation is that God said, “They have become like US.” The trinity is already in existence!

God always deals with the proud in due time (tower of Babel, kings opposing Israel, or Saul desiring all the people’s attention). God empowers individuals to do great things, but it is for a purpose. God empowers individuals to do great things so that His power is seen through individuals. The proud are focused on bringing glory to themselves. All throughout Scripture, we see God make an example of the proud to prove that He is Lord of all. Pride is the ultimate offense; it was Satan’s sin and God cannot abide it.

8. This passage is Moses’ plea to God during his time in the desert, leading the children of Israel for 40 years! Remember, he has already seen and been part of many miracles during the escape from Egypt. Read Exodus 33:12-23. What is Moses’ big ask? Why does he desire to see God directly, when he has already seen the Red Sea parted, manna appear like dew on the ground, and numerous other miracles?

Leader Notes: Something was still missing for Moses. The people of Israel had seen God’s power, heard about His love, and even seen His Presence in the cloud by day and the fire by night. But they could not truly experience His Presence as we can, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Moses got to experience God in a deeper way (verse 16), but even he was looking for more.

9. Read Psalm 27:4. This song is written by David during a time of war. Why is David so hungry for God’s Presence? What is the one thing you desire above all else? What does humility and pride have to do with seeking God?

Leader Notes: David knows all that God can do to help and bring him through his present struggles and hardships. By drawing closer to God’s Presence, he will experience His love more and more. It is harder for us to seek God when we are not humble, and our pride is in the way.

10. Read John 15:9-17, Luke 22:20, and John 14:15-21. What is the New Covenant? How do these verses line up with the Old Testament stories we read? Have you fully appreciated the opportunity you have to be in constant, intimate relationship with God? How so? If not, what is holding you back?

Leader Notes: God’s love never changed, but the Covenant did. We see in these verses that Jesus changed the way things would be through His blood. The veil in the temple was torn and we are no longer separated from God. Believers from then on would have God’s Presence, not only with them but in them, something even the patriarchs, kings, and prophets never had.