



LESSON 3 // THE TIDE OF PRIDE

Big Idea: In our spiritual life, there's a certain "tide" we must carefully watch out for: the slow rising tide of pride. The docks of history are filled with ships sunk by this tide, many lives that have been ruined by pride.

The tide of pride often rises imperceptibly, but there are signs that can help you identify it in your life—like self-centered ambition, self-promotion, a critical spirit and judgmental thoughts, words and actions. The good news is that you can reverse this tide through genuine humility, confession, repentance and a heart to serve God and others without seeking attention for yourself.

Isaiah 57:15 (NIV) *For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

Start Talking:

Describe a time when your pride got you in trouble (in a relationship, at work, etc.). What did you learn about yourself?

Start Thinking:

Read Proverbs 16:18 and Daniel 5:17-22. What do you learn about pride from these verses?

Why do you think the tide of pride can often "rise imperceptibly" and deceptively in us?

What are some signs that can tell you when the tide of pride is rising in your life? Which of these have you seen in your life at times?

Read Isaiah 57:15, James 4:6, 10 and 1 Peter 5:6. How do these verses challenge and encourage you about being humble rather than prideful?

Start Praying:

Pray for God to show you any signs of pride in your life and to give you a heart that's consistently repentant and humble before Him and others.

Start Doing:

In practical ways this week, exercise humility in your relationships. This might mean intentionally and attentively listening to others rather than talking too much. It might mean deliberately *not* looking for attention at the office and looking to simply serve co-workers instead. Be teachable and open to input (and even correction), rather than stubborn and resistant. Rein in critical, judgmental thoughts and filter these in a godly way (see Philippians 4:8).

You get the idea—practice living with a "contrite and lowly" spirit (Isaiah 57:15) and see how God will revive your heart and bless others through you!