

Small Group Guide: The King Who Lifts the Lowly

Series: The Humble King (Week 4)

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:46-55 (Mary's Magnificat)

OPENING PRAYER (2-3 minutes)

Ask someone to open in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and soften hearts to receive what God wants to teach through this study.

ICEBREAKER (5-10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when someone in a position of power or influence surprised you with their humility. What made that moment memorable?

REVIEW THE MESSAGE (5 minutes)

Key Theme: Jesus came low so that He might lift us up. The humility of Christ is not just something to admire but something we are called to embody as His followers.

Main Scripture: Luke 1:46-55 (Mary's Magnificat)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part 1: Understanding Mary's Response (15-20 minutes)

1. **Read Luke 1:26-38.** What stands out to you about Mary's response to the angel Gabriel? What might this moment have cost her?

2. The sermon contrasted Mary's response with Zechariah's response (Luke 1:18). Both asked "how" questions, but their hearts were different. What was the key difference between doubt and wonder in faith?
3. Mary sang, "He took notice of his lowly servant girl" (Luke 1:48). What does this tell us about what draws God's attention? How does this challenge our cultural understanding of importance?

Part 2: The Posture of Humility (15-20 minutes)

4. **Read Matthew 5:3.** What does it mean to be "poor in spirit" or to "realize our need for God"? Why is this the first beatitude Jesus gives?
5. The sermon stated: "Humility is not about self-contempt but about recognizing our dependence on God." How does this definition change or clarify your understanding of humility?
6. **Read Micah 6:8.** This verse gives us God's requirements: "Do what is right, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." Which of these three do you find most challenging? Why?

Part 3: Humility and Mission (15-20 minutes)

7. **Read Philippians 2:5-11.** The early church sang this as a hymn. What truths about Jesus does this passage celebrate? How should these truths shape the way we live?
8. The sermon said, "Mission and humility are never separate in Scripture." How does pride hinder the advancement of the gospel? How does humility create space for God's work?
9. "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Why do you think God operates this way? What does this reveal about His character?

Part 4: Exaltation Comes from God (10-15 minutes)

10. Jesus didn't exalt Himself—the Father exalted Him. How does this challenge our culture's emphasis on self-promotion and personal branding?
11. The sermon stated: "In the kingdom of heaven, the way up is still down." What does this mean practically for how we pursue success, influence, or leadership?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Write these on a whiteboard or share them verbally:

- **Humility is the posture that God blesses** - God is drawn to surrender, not status
 - **God blesses a humble people** - We inherit the kingdom when we recognize our need for God
 - **Humility is shaped by the presence of God** - We can't manufacture it; it comes through revelation
 - **Mission and humility are inseparable** - A humble church becomes a credible, approachable, powerful church
 - **Exaltation comes from God, not self-promotion** - God lifts what the world overlooks
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PRACTICAL APPLICATION (15-20 minutes)

The sermon gave three practical steps. Discuss these as a group:

1. Choose Low Places

- Serve someone who cannot repay you this week
- Listen before you speak
- Lay down your need to win

Group Discussion: What's one specific way you can "choose the low place" this week? Share your commitment with the group for accountability.

2. Carry Truth with Gentleness

- Let your convictions be shaped by compassion
- Speak the truth in love—not silence, not harshness

Group Discussion: Is there a relationship where you need to speak truth but have been silent? Or where you've spoken truth without love? How can you do better?

3. Trust God to Lift You

- Release the desire to self-promote
- Embrace faithfulness in hidden places
- Remember: "In the kingdom of heaven, the way up is still down"

Group Discussion: Where are you tempted to self-promote rather than trust God? What would it look like to serve faithfully in hidden places?

PERSONAL REFLECTION (5 minutes)

Give everyone a moment of silence to consider:

- Where is God calling me to greater humility?
 - What area of pride do I need to surrender to Him?
 - How can I embody the humility of Christ this week?
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CLOSING PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for Jesus' example of humility
- Ask for grace to walk humbly with God
- Pray for opportunities to serve in hidden places this week
- Ask God to reveal areas of pride that need to be surrendered

Suggestion: Have group members pray for the person on their right, specifically asking God to help them walk in humility this week.

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

Challenge: Practice one of the three practical steps daily and come prepared to share how God worked through your obedience to humble yourself.

Scripture Memory: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." - James 4:6

LEADER NOTES

- Be vulnerable about your own struggles with pride and humility
- Create a safe space for honest confession
- Remind the group that humility is a journey, not a destination

- Celebrate examples of humility you see in group members
- Consider sharing the story about the Easter egg hunt to illustrate our competitive nature in a light-hearted way