

A large graphic where the word "SUMMER" is written in large, 3D block letters. Each letter contains a different summer-themed image: 'S' shows a sailboat on water, 'U' shows a white house with a green lawn, 'M' shows a street scene with a sign, 'M' shows a hot air balloon, 'E' shows a clock tower, and 'R' shows a church steeple. Below "SUMMER" is the text "at Cypress" in a cursive font. The background is a faded image of a city skyline and a bridge over water.

# SUMMER *at Cypress*

**July 18, 2021**

To watch the message, visit  
[cypresschurch.tv/teaching](http://cypresschurch.tv/teaching)

## **TEACHING OVERVIEW**

This weekend Pastor Ken shared a story about a fisherman and how we can learn from this specific man's life. He showed us that we often have to swallow our own pride in situations and trust that Jesus will lead and direct us through it. He taught us that a faith-filled journey can lead to a highway of blessings in our lives.

## **E**ncouragement

Pastor Ken said that "blessing is on the other side of obedience". Share with your Group about a time in your life when you experienced the blessing of God because of prior obedience. Be encouraged by the faithfulness of God in each of your Group member's lives!

## **S**cripture & Discussion

**Read:** [Luke 5:1-11](#)

### **Discuss**

1. Pastor Ken talked about how pride is often our mountain in the difficult seasons of life that we have to climb. How do you think pride affects you in the hard moments? Talk with your Group about how you can begin to take steps to overcome that pride and take on humility.
2. What is one thing in your life today that you need to release to God in order to focus on Jesus and your faith journey more?



## Scripture & Discussion

**Read:** [Matthew 5:14-16](#)

### Discuss

1. Pastor Ken said, "God has a greater strength on the other side of the struggle... the only way you can be built stronger is to joyfully lean into this struggle and allow God to be at work in and through you." What may be getting in the way of you experiencing joy in the journey currently? How can you choose today to joyfully lean into the struggle you may be facing right now?
2. We are called to walk in humble obedience throughout our journey of life as a believer. Talk with your Group about what the role of humility plays on the path to blessing. How does walking in humble obedience allow us to be, as Matthew says, "a light of the world" to those around us?

## Prayer

Take some time praying as Group that you would be able to surrender the pride that is holding you back from the full faith journey that God has called you to. Make it a priority to pray for one another throughout the week and continue to encourage one another each day.

Pastor Ken challenged by saying that we each have a bold next step of obedience to take. Spend some time this week praying that God would begin to reveal that next step for each person in your Group.

## Next Steps

Take time this week making a plan of action in order to accomplish some of the next steps that God has for you.

Talk with your Group about some ways you can lay down your pride and spend more time focusing on who Jesus is. Watch the blessings that will come when we actively choose to lay down our pride.