

Icebreaker: Describe your most humiliating moment.

“The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

(Matthew 23:11-12).

Choose humility now or choose humiliation later.

Discuss why many theologians say that pride is the sin of all sins.

You shall have no other Gods before me. (Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:6)

Prepare the soil...

1. **Humility grows from healthy fear...***Humility is the fear of the Lord...* (Proverbs 22:4a)
How much do you fear God and how much do you fear something else? What is that something else that vies for your attention to fear? Why do you fear it and not God fully?
2. **Listen and heed advice...***Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice. (Proverbs 13:10) – how good are you at listening and receiving advice? What is one piece of advice you have received in your life that was valuable?*
3. **Talk less...** *Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips. (Proverbs 27:2; See also 29:20 and 30:32)*

Which of the three ways to “prepare the soil” of humility do you do best? Worst?

...and produce the fruit...

1. **God gives favor to the humble...** *“He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.” (Proverbs 3:34)*

The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.
(Proverbs 16:5)

How has God shown you favor?

2. **Humility begets wisdom...** *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. (Proverbs 11:2)*
3. **Humility, not pride, brings the biggest earnings...***Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life. (Proverbs 22:4)*

Which of the three “fruits” above is the most appealing to you? Why is it the most appealing? What are you willing to do to see if it proves true in your life?

...with the proper perspective. – In your relationships with one another have the same mindset as *Christ Jesus*: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a

servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (**Philippians 2:5-8**)

How did Jesus humble himself according to this passage? What are some tangible ways you can emulate him in this humility?