

Welcome to Digital Discipleship, a weekly video teaching from Pastor Shawn and a downloadable weekly devotional guide. We pray that you will grow stronger in your walk with Jesus as you lean into these teachings and devotions.

DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP - LESSON 13 -

Be Humble

Day 1

Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

Introduction

- 1. **James 4:6 (NIV)** God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- 2. What does Scripture have to say about humility and its opposite, pride?

What may LEAD to pride?

- 1. <u>Knowledge</u> **1 Corinthians 8:1-2 (NIV)** <u>Knowledge puffs up</u>, but love builds up. ² The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know.
 - a. When some become educated, they fall prey to the temptation of pride and become self-sufficient.
 - b. You and I were NOT designed to be able to do life without God's help or the help of anyone else.
 - c. How readily this warning is overlooked by those of us with degrees!
- 2. Possessions 1 Tim 6:17 (NLT) Tell those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money.
- 3. <u>Abilities</u> **Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV)** Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth
- 4. <u>Power</u> **2 Chronicles 26:16 (NIV)** But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.
- 5. Youthfulness Youth may think they are invincible and will live forever. James 4:13-16 (NIV) Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.
- 6. Achievements can lead to pride 2 Kings 19:23-26 (NLT) You have said, "With my many chariots I have conquered the highest mountains ... I have dug wells in many a foreign land and refreshed myself with their water. I even stopped up the rivers of Egypt so that my armies could go across!" ²⁵ 'But have you not heard? It was I, the LORD, who decided this long ago. Long ago I planned what I am now causing to happen, that you should crush fortified cities into heaps of rubble. ²⁶ That is why their people have so little power and are such easy prey for you...."
- 7. <u>Culture may breed pride</u> **John 4:9 (NIV)** The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)
- 8. Opportunities and gifts all come from God. We didn't get them ourselves.
- 9. 1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV) What do you have that you did not receive?
- 10. These gifts can fool us to trust in ourselves instead of the Giver.
- 11. Such pride ALWAYS precedes a fall or failure ALWAYS.
- 12. Proverbs 16:18 (NIV) Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

What humility ISN'T

First: Spiritual talk doesn't prove you're humble:

- 1. Watch out for <u>false humility</u> religious or spiritual talk.
- 2. **E.g.** God told Moses to bring His people out of captivity.
- **3.** Look at Moses' response ...**Exodus 3:11; 4:10, 13 (NIV)** Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt? ... I have never been eloquent O Lord, please send someone else to do it.
- 4. Moses' response sounds humble; it sounds spiritual.
- 5. But the next verse reveals the true nature of the response ...
- 6. **Exodus 4:14 (NIV)** Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses.
- 7. Why? Because Moses was really exalting himself in 3 ways:
 - a. Smarter than God
 - b. Relying on self: His objections came from his feelings of inadequacy. But if God could give a donkey the words to say, certainly He could give a man the words to say.
 - c. <u>Thinking only of self</u>: God wanted to deliver several million people out of slavery, but Moses wasn't thinking about several million souls who needed to be set free & delivered.
- 8. This wasn't humility; it was pride in disguise!
- 9. **E.g.** Pastors will experience people in their churches who will often be new and will take the pastor our for lunch. At lunch they will say: "You are our pastors and we will submit to you." But they don't. As soon as they disagree with one thing they hear taught, they rebel and leave.
- 10. Do you know what other kind of talk that sounds humble, but might not be?
- 11. "God led me to leave," or "God led me to quit." Sounds spiritual doesn't it?
- 12. Here's another one that sounds and might even be humble but might not be: "I'll pray about it."

Second: Lowly station in life doesn't mean you're humble

- 1. We know that Moses didn't start off humble.
- 2. But look at what is said of him later on after he became a great leader ...
- 3. **Numbers 12:3 (NIV)** Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.
- 4. Interestingly, he was proud when he had no position over Israel but became humble as a leader!
- 5. Obviously, a low or high position has nothing to do with humility!

Third: Possessing great spiritual gifts doesn't mean you're humble

- 1. Many are wowed by great gifts particularly, the gift of prophecy! Yet Paul said ...
- 2. **1 Corinthians 13:1 (NIV)** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels ... ²If I have the gift of prophecy ... if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, <u>I am nothing</u>.
- 3. Some prophetic people believe that because they get a word from the Lord, they must be <u>special</u> so they won't submit to church leaders. It counts for nothing.
- 4. **Warning**: Balaam (Numbers 23-24) prophesied about an entire nation AND even prophesied about a star (Messiah) that would arise out of Jacob & that his scepter will one day crush hostile nations!
- 5. Very few have ever or will ever make prophesies of that magnitude!
- 6. And yet look at what Scripture says about Balaam, the great prophet:
- 7. **2 Peter 2:15 (NIV)** They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.
- 8. Just because one possesses a great spiritual gift, doesn't mean that they are necessarily humble!

Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

- 1. Write down something that stood out to you, from the reading you just completed.
- 2. What are the things that can lead to pride in our lives?
- 3. What is humility <u>not</u>? What three things are shared today about that?

- 1. Look at the list of things that can lead to pride. Examine your life. Have any of these things led to pride in your own life? Write down these examples and record what the consequences were of such pride.
- 2. Can you also think of times in your life when you showed false humility? Write these down as well.
- 3. Think of what you have in life right now. Praise God for what He has given you, as EVERYTHING good is from His Hand!
- 4. Review Philippians 1:3-5, Romans 12:2, James 1:22, Matthew 28:19-20, John 10:27, Ephesians 4:11-12, Psalm 1:1-6, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Joshua 1:8, John 14:21, Matthew 6:9-13, 2 Peter 1:3-11, Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 6:19-24, Psalm 19:7-8, Proverbs 9:10
- 5. Memorize James 4:6

Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

On Day 1, we looked at three things that humility isn't. Today, we'll consider two more, then discuss what it is.

Fourth: Boasting doesn't mean that you're NOT humble

- 1. Some would say that all boasting is prideful and wrong.
- 2. It may be, but it needn't be. The Psalmist said ...
- 3. **Psalms 44:8 (NIV)** *In God we make our boast* all day long
- 4. Moses boasted about God's exploits, such as Israel's deliverance from Egypt.
- 5. Motive is the key. In fact, not to boast about what God has done may be proud!
- 6. **E.g.** Pastor Ray Duerksen, Founder of Church Renewal during a prayer walk at Crescent Beach in White Rock, BC, the Holy Spirit told me to go back & tell the church about Him and the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. I objected: "It will cause a split or I'll get thrown out. Why is it necessary?"
 - b. **Holy Spirit said**: "The people think you must be an amazing leader to get these results. Now they need to know who's leading you! ME!"
- 7. Do you see it? Boasting may be humble, and silence may be pride!
- 8. One prominent business leader once said: "I don't like to talk about my business."
- 9. Sounds spiritual; but is it?! Maybe; maybe not.
- 10. Maybe by being silent, everyone begins to assume and spread the word that the business leader is so amazing.
- 11. Telling what God has done as long as you frame it that way is one of the humblest things you can do and it glorifies God!
- 12. **1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)** What do you have that you did not receive?
- 13. Take care not to judge another's pride based on their boast or silence, because we don't have the ability to judge someone's heart their motives!
- 14. Remember: we're strongly warned not to judge MOTIVES we may ONLY judge behavior.

Fifth: Self-confidence doesn't mean you're NOT humble

- 1. David, at his father's request, visited his older brothers who were in battle against the Philistines.
- 2. When he arrived, he noticed that all the soldiers, including his brothers, were in a strange new battle position: hiding behind rocks in fear of Goliath!
- 3. He asked, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
- 4. This infuriated his oldest brother Eliab, who snapped back at David:
- 5. **1 Samuel 17:28 (NIV)** "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."
- 6. David shook off this verbal assault and rushed forward with confidence to fell the mighty giant with one stone!
- 7. Was he arrogant, conceited or proud? NO!
- 8. Often the truly humble are mistaken for being arrogant, because they appear confident!
- 9. God had something to say about David:
- 10. Acts 13:22 (NIV) I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.
- 11. Meekness isn't weakness!
- 12. Shyness, bashfulness, lack of confidence, insecurity, low self esteem, being a passive doormat, putting yourself down are NOT humility.
- 13. They are weaknesses that you need to be delivered and set free from!

What humility IS

First: Humility is obedience

- 1. **Philippians 2:8 (NIV)** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became <u>obedient</u> to deatheven death on a cross!
- 2. God gives us vision for the future, showing us where we are to go, stirring up desire in us to go there.
- 3. Immediately we begin to form a logical pathway to get there.
- 4. But sometimes He will lead us in directions that appear completely contrary to our logic.

- 5. For example, God could have led the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan via the much shorter coastal way.
- 6. **Exodus 13:17 (NIV)** When Pharaoh let the people go, <u>God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter</u>. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."
- 7. True humility acknowledges God's wisdom even when it doesn't make sense and we don't understand!
- 8. **Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)** Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
- 9. God promised Abraham that he would become the father of many nations.
- 10. In his old age he became the father of Isaac and could glimpse from a distance the promise of being father to a multitude!
- 11. But then God changed it all one night, telling Abraham to journey three days and put Isaac to death as a sacrifice to God!
- 12. It didn't make sense! Can you imagine the struggle to obey?!
- 13. Yet out of humility Abraham chose to obey even when he didn't understand!
- 14. We don't get to the level of obedience and humility that Abraham achieved, in one step.
- 15. Humility had become second nature to him, because he had practiced it many times before through smaller obedient choices.
- 16. And though he made mistakes along the way, he learned from them and became a humble man!
- 17. You learn obedience through right choices; you learn humility the same way.

Second: Humility is complete dependence on God

- 1. **Isaiah 66:2 (CEV)** The people I treasure most are the humble—they <u>depend only on me</u> and tremble when I speak.
- 2. Remember, David appeared to be arrogant; yet he knew his ability came from God see what he tells King Saul
- 3. **1 Samuel 17:37 (NIV)** The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."
- 4. A key expression of such humble dependence is prayer!
- 5. When Daniel came across Jeremiah's prophecy and wanted understanding, an angel was dispatched.
- 6. See what he said to Daniel: "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. Daniel 10:12 (NIV)
- 7. How much revelation do we forfeit simply because we do not ask God to show us unsearchable things?
- 8. **Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)** Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.
- 9. When we fast and pray, we are confessing our weakness and expressing our dependence on God that's humility!

Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

- 1. Write down something that stood out to you, from the reading you just completed.
- 2. What is humility not? What two things are shared today about that?
- 3. If someone seems weak, does that necessarily mean that they are humble? Explain.
- 4. What two characteristics of humility are shared today?

- 1. Consider your life a bit do you give credit to God for the things you have accomplished, including before others? If yes, keep going! If not, confess first to the Lord for taking credit, even through your silence. Then make a commitment to clearly tell others of God's work in and through you.
- 2. Is there something that you are not doing for God out of your pride? Seek His face on this.
- 3. Review James 4:6

Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

On Day 2, we looked at two things that humility is. Today, we'll consider four more.

Third: <u>Humility doesn't require recognition</u>

- 1. **Philippians 2:5-7 (NIV)** Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
- 2. He awaited the Father's exaltation, which came years later ...

Fourth: Humility isn't conceited

1. **2 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)** To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

Fifth: Humility is being teachable

- 1. **Proverbs 13:10 (NIV)** Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.
- 2. Our lives are not long enough to learn everything ourselves.
- 3. If we feel resistance in us as we work through the HOMEWORK, because we are being discipled in how to renew ourselves, know that it is nothing but PRIDE.
- 4. Make a conscious decision today and each time it raises its ugly head, to dispense with it!
- 5. **Example 1**: From Pastor Ray, Founder of Church Renewal
 - a. Long before Church Renewal was even in my mind, a Pastor by the name of Claude Lainey set up an appointment to see me we didn't know each other, though he had heard of me.
 - b. He was serious when he arrived and wanted my opinion about how to do certain things in his church.
 - c. From what I gathered, I suggested he do two things: start prayer and simplify the church structures
 - d. And with that he left. Months later, he asked to see me again. I said "yes" but had in my mind that I would only see him one more time.
 - e. He sat down and got right to the point with another question.
 - f. Instead of answering him, I asked him: "What did you do about the questions you asked me a few months ago?"
 - g. He matter-of-factly replied: "Well, I did what you said."
 - h. Half wondering if I was hearing correctly, I followed up: "What do you mean?"
 - i. He said, "You told me to start prayer and to simplify church structures. I did and now I have another question."
 - j. I couldn't believe it! When he left, I tole the office that, "Anytime Pastor Claude calls, just book him." I could see a humble teachable heart in this pastor.

Sixth: Humility puts others' interests first

- 1. **Philippians 2:3 (NIV)** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but <u>in humility consider others better than yourselves</u>.
- 2. Paul was willing to pay a steep price in order to bring the gospel to others, and to have them grow: in prison many times, 5 times he received 39 lashes, 3 times beaten with rods, once stoned & left for dead, 3 shipwrecks, often gone without food, in danger of bandits, and emperors (2 Corinthians 11).
- 3. Who did Paul do this for? For others! That's humility.

Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

- 1. Write down something that stood out to you, from the reading you just completed.
- 2. What four characteristics of humility are shared today?

Life Application (James 1:22)

1. Look at the four characteristics of humility that have been shared today. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you about how you are doing with each of these. Remember, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble!

2.	Ask 2-3 people who know you well. Ask them to rate you on these four characteristics. Ask them to be really honest! Of course, choose to not be offended by their honesty. Also, do not assume that their assessment is perfect – simply take what they said to the Lord.

Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

Why we need humility

First: God gives understanding to the humble

- 1. Many think that the key to understanding the Bible lies in our minds know the original languages of the Bible and historical backgrounds of the Bible, and so on. Not so.
- 2. That is intellectual pride.
- 3. The mind DOES have a role to play but not the chief role!
- 4. The key to interpreting all divine revelation is in the heart, not in the mind.
- 5. The religious leaders studied the Scriptures more than anyone, but they couldn't grasp that the Scriptures pointed to Jesus!
- 6. **John 5:39-40 (NIV)** You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.
- 7. Jesus pinpointed the core of the matter when He said ...
- 8. **Luke 10:21 (NIV)** I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have <u>hidden these things from the wise and learned</u>, and <u>revealed them to little children</u>. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.
- 9. Jesus says that the Father reveals truth to those with child-like hearts (recall Mark 10:15: "receive the kingdom like a child"). Child-like? Read, humble!
- 10. Sometimes Jesus would use symbolic language that would offend and conceal truths from his listeners.
- 11. **John 6:53 (NIV)** Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.
- 12. That sounds pretty outrageous! And many deserted Him because of it!
- 13. But why were they following Him in the first place?
- 14. Jesus said that they were following Him simply for food (John 6:26).
- 15. The temptation of religious people is to use God, rather than to love Him.
- 16. Jesus was happy to provide food for his followers, but he wanted them to know he was more than a caterer He was also the source for eternal life.
- 17. If only they had stayed long enough, they would have learned that Jesus told hard sayings to frustrate the impure motives of those who came near.
- 18. The Lord hides his wisdom in the Holy Spirit so that the intellectually and religiously proud cannot find it with their natural talents.
- 19. **Matthew 13:15 (NIV)** For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'
- 20. The disciples didn't understand either, but they stayed around long enough to learn what He really meant.
- 21. Humility, not intellectualism, is the key to kingdom understanding.
- 22. **Psalm 25:9 (NIV)** He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.
- 23. That is why Anna and Simeon recognized Messiah as a child! The Holy Spirit revealed it to them. Scripture without the Holy Spirit unlocking the keys, isn't sufficient!
- 24. The Lord doesn't throw pearls to the careless, proud and arrogant (Matthew 7:6)!

Second: God entrusts assignments to the humble

- 1. David was learning to depend solely on God early in his life though David didn't understand that right away.
- 2. Twice God tested him, giving David opportunity to kill his enemy:
 - a. 1 Samuel 24:4 David cut off the corner of Saul's robe
 - b. 1 Samuel 26:12 As Saul slept, David took Saul's spear & water jug
- 3. David was learning to listen carefully, in order to stay alive.
- 4. He had come to the place where, if God didn't say it, he wouldn't do it!
- 5. God was going to be able to trust David to lead a nation, because he depended on God!
- 6. The more people you lead or influence, the more damage you can do!

7. The greater the calling and the bigger the assignment from God; the greater the humility required. This is why God judged Moses so harshly for striking the rock for water, which was disobedience. It seems like a small matter, but Moses had a HUGE assignment from God.

Third: God dwells with the humble

- 1. **Isaiah 57:15 (NIV)** For this is what the high and lofty One says-- he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."
- 2. Not just a visit but a dwelling!
- 3. Many haven't experienced what it is like to dwell in God's presence; to hear him continually; to be refreshed in His presence.
- 4. You enter that place through the door of humility!

Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

- 1. Write down something that stood out to you, from the reading you just completed.
- 2. Why do we need humility? What three things do we learn from today's reading?
- 3. In trying to make decisions, we can often result on what, instead of humbly going to God?

- 1. Can you think of a breakthrough in thinking that you have received in the past, upon humbling yourself? Write this down.
- 2. Go on to, biblegateway.com. Do a search using the words, "humility" and, "humble." Read what comes up. Don't rush this. Let God really impact you with the importance of humility.

Renew the Mind (Romans 12:2)

How we acquire humility

- 1. SO, if humility is so essential, how do we get it?
- 2. Essentially, there are two ways we can acquire humility:

First: humble ourselves

- 1. 1 Peter 5:6 (NIV) Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.
- 2. The command is clear: humble yourselves. We are to take every opportunity to humble ourselves before God and others.
- 3. Where do we begin?
- 4. **First**: we need to identify pride in ourselves.
 - a. Everyone struggles with pride at times, and this must be confessed.
 - b. But as you look at the following list, ask yourself, "Is my life characterized by this? Is it a discernable pattern in my life? Can I see it? Does my spouse see it? How about my friends or colleagues?"
 - Am I teachable? Am I eager to learn from others, or do I resent having to learn from others?
 - <u>Do I submit to those who are in spiritual leadership over me</u>? Or do I have tendencies to resist outwardly or inwardly? Do I pretend to submit, but then go and do whatever I am going to do?
 - <u>Do I depend on God through prayer</u>, or do I depend on my abilities and experience to get things done? Is my life characterized by praying for all things and in all situations (Ephesians 6:18), or do I just hold a short prayer time each day?
 - <u>Am I humble culturally</u>? Or do I become defensive if someone points out the shortcomings of my culture? Am I culturally arrogant and act superior to those from other cultures?
 - <u>Do I treat everyone the same, no matter what their station in life?</u> Or do I feel or even act superior to them? Do I feel for those who are poor or don't have education or position, or do I take advantage of them, or ignore them? Do I treat the wealthy or educated differently than the others?
 - Am I judgmental? Do I have a suspicious spirit about many people? Am I often critical of others?
 - <u>Do I try to draw attention to myself?</u>
 - <u>Do I boast about my accomplishments</u>? Or do I give due credit to God and the contributions of others?
 - Do I obey God in everything?
 - c. Ask the Holy Spirit to assist you in this, by listening in prayer over this list.
- 5. Second: confess any elements of pride identified by you and the Holy Spirit
- 6. Third: Pray for the desire and ability to become humble in the area affected
 - a. Philippians 2:13 (NIV) for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.
 - b. This desire and ability you ask for ARE the very grace God offers.
- 7. **Fourth**: Live in the opposite spirit of pride
 - a. Live it out in the grace that God will make available to you.
 - b. As you try to live it out, you will fail.
 - c. But each time you fall, get up again, ask God to cleanse you and forgive you.
 - d. As you do, He will grant you more grace, until you become a victor in this.
 - e. Humility will begin to form in your life in the same way that all character is formed.
 - f. **Andrew Murray**: Acts produce habits; habits breed dispositions (tendencies!); dispositions form the will which is character!
 - g. He who works both to will and to do comes with His mighty power and Spirit.

h. 1 Peter 5:5 (NIV) Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Second: God trains us in humility

- 1. It would be nice if we could simply obey God's command to humble ourselves, so that God wouldn't have to train us in humility.
- 2. The truth of the matter is that we don't see our blind spots.
- 3. And because we don't examine ourselves before the Lord in this, the Lord often has to take initiative in helping us humble ourselves.
- 4. Such humility is usually acquired in the desert (some refer to it as the 'dark night of the soul').
- 5. Take Moses for example:
 - a. He was chosen by God to so something incredibly significant deliver God's people out of the land of Egypt. What a calling!
 - b. When he saw how an Egyptian abused a fellow Israelite, he was rightfully incensed.
 - c. However, he took matters into his own hands that was not how God intended to deliver Israel.
 - d. The result was that he spent the next 40 years learning humility in the wilderness.
 - e. It can be said: "In his own strength, Moses killed one Egyptian and delivered no one; but when he submitted himself to God's way, he killed no one and delivered an entire nation!"
 - f. By the time God was ready to use Moses, he no longer wanted to be a deliverer, as he REALLY understood that only God could do it!
- 6. Joseph also experienced a significant training times in the "desert."
- 7. God even sent an entire nation into the literal desert for 40 years to humble them to have childlike dependence and gratitude.
- 8. **Deuteronomy 8:3 (NIV)** <u>He humbled you, causing you to hunger</u> and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
- 9. In the desert, God is teaching you to quit trusting in yourself (pride), and to trust the messages coming from Him (humility).
- 10. How do we keep humility? God does it through weaknesses He allows in our lives.
- 11. **2 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)** To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

Reflecting and Reviewing (2 Timothy 2:7)

- 1. Write down something that stood out to you, from the reading you just completed.
- 2. What are some things that we can do to humble ourselves?
- 3. How does God train us to be humble? Explain.

- 1. Slowly and prayerfully go through the steps that are noted in the section, "humble ourselves."
- 2. Ask God to show you where and how He is training you in humility right now. Write this down.
- 3. Spend some time praising God for being a great Teacher, full of Wisdom, Mercy and Love!
- 4. Review James 4:6

Obedience

- 1. For this final day, we want to focus on OBEDIENCE, as we as disciples are to be doers of the Word (James 1:22-25). The Bible clearly teaches that obedience is a clear echo of our love for God (1 John 5:3).
- 2. It is also through obedience that we find blessing and our lives are built on a rock (Matthew 7:24-27).
- 3. Take this lesson and quickly scan the title and headings do <u>not</u> re-read the entire lesson.
- 4. Humbly go before God and ask "what is one step of obedience that I can take as a result of this lesson?"
- 5. Perhaps have a section in your journal where you record this step (and steps from future lessons). Or put it in the calendar on your phone. This shows God that we are both intending <u>and</u> committing to obey.
- 6. Write or speak out a prayer of commitment based on the step.