



LION HEART| The Last Battle |Week 6| Nov 16/17

Daniel 5; Psalm 139; Romans 6:23; Mark 8:34-38; Ephesians 2:8-10; Luke 6:33

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Humility vs. Pride: Share or journal about the most humble person you've ever known. Describe their interactions with family, those they worked with, or others who came across their path. Do you think they knew they were humble? Now do the same exercise for the most prideful person you ever known. Which one are you more like? Explain.

The Message on the Wall: Using your imagination, place yourself on the scene as one of the nobles. Read Daniel 5:1-9 from this perspective and journal or share on the following questions.

- What is your response to the king's reaction? What are you feeling and thinking right now?
- Why do you think this is happening and what does it mean?

Daniel the Interpreter: Read Daniel 5:10-17. King Belshazzar gets historical help from the queen and calls Daniel to interpret.

- Could King Belshazzar be so clueless to the royal history that he did not know what happened to Nebuchadnezzar?
- What is going on in Belshazzar's head, what is he feeling, what does the crowd think?

Though you knew all this.....: Read Daniel 5:18-28. We can now see, perhaps, why this king was so spooked by receiving a message. Perhaps he knew he was flaunting his pride and glory in the face of the God he could not defeat.

- What does the king's dread say about his knowledge of God?
- How does guilt influence the choices people make for the positive or negative?
- How has guilt influenced you?
- How do you process guilt? Journal or share how you handle it.

Numbered, Weighed, Divided: King Belshazzar's struggle with wealth, power and influence can be applied to our battle in American life today. Pastor Dan described it in terms of living with "God-defined goals or self-defined ones". And more specifically "the battle between the way of **Humility** and the way of **Pride**".

- Journal a quick list of King Belshazzar's prideful ways or make one together as a group.
- What distinguishes pride in people?
- Contrast it with humility? What distinguishes humility?



Measured and found short: Pastor Dan gives three attributes of pride for us to consider. These would be “found short” of the life with God-defined goals.

- Selfish—use sacred gifts (money, power, position, talent) for selfish purposes.
- Dominate and Controlling—in crisis get the upper hand, get back in control, get out without losing what I have. Self-sufficient, self-made, winner.
- Never wrong—even when confronted with hard truth they will not admit fault.
- What are the opposites, the contrasts, to the above attributes?
- Which one do you struggle with the most? Journal about your tensions or share with the group.

The Consequences of PRIDE: Pastor Dan outlined two losses: the loss of Life and the loss of Influence.

- Read Romans 6:23. Pride is the first of the seven deadly sins. Read Mark 8:34-38. What comes up in you as you read these scriptures?
- “God wants to establish His kingdom’s character in and through you and me. He wants to use us as influencers.” Read Ephesians 2:8-10. How is the life described here opposed to what we now know about pride?
- “I pray that you have humbly surrendered to the saving Lordship of Jesus Christ.” When have you done this? Share with the group or journal your experience. If you haven’t and would like to receive Jesus into your life, please reach out to us here at Christ Church. See the contact information below.

Practice of the Week: Pastor Dan closed with four specific strategies for helping Humility to win the battle for your soul. He cites our attitude toward:

- **Criticism.** (Psalm 139:23-24) Be open to what God shows you as you pray this.
- **Being wrong.** Say “I was wrong” at least once this week.
- **Humble service for others.** (Luke 6:33) Choose to serve an enemy this week.
- **Giving God glory in the face of success.** Don’t shrink in meek compliance because it looks humble when someone compliments you. Instead, actively credit God for the talent, resources, or ideas that you are being praised for.

Keep a journal of what happens with each of these through the week. Thank God for His help in the battle between pride and humility. Sit quietly with God and discern how the battle for your soul is going.

We’d love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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