



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Five

Pastor Jacob repeated the statements of humility from last week's message.

*I am sorry. I was wrong. I need help. I don't know.*

These simple statements can serve as an internal humility check. Jacob shared the image of the Door of Humility at the Church of the Nativity. The door requires a bowed posture for those who enter the place where Jesus was born. According to James, wisdom from above leads to humility. Seek wisdom—grow in humility.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

God,  
We acknowledge that the trials we are facing are producing perseverance.  
We celebrate that perseverance produces wisdom.  
May that wisdom produce a humility in us that shows up in our daily lives.  
Amen

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: JAMES 3.1-8

*Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup> We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.*

<sup>3</sup> *When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup> Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. <sup>5</sup> Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. <sup>6</sup> The tongue also is a fire, a world of*

*evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.*

<sup>7</sup> *All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.*

- The human tongue cannot be tamed by a human. The only one who can tame the human tongue is Jesus whose birthplace causes us to bow down to come close. (see note on the Door of Humility above) It seems that the tongue is also like the tamed animal that suddenly returns to its wild nature. We can, at our best, “bite our tongue” and filter our responses. But in the end, it is our inability to keep it reigned that gets us into trouble!
- *Pray for the humility that Jesus invites us into to bring peace to the restless evil that your tongue can bring.*

## **TUESDAY: ROMANS 3.10-12**

*“There is no one righteous, not even one;*

<sup>11</sup> *there is no one who understands;*

*there is no one who seeks God.*

<sup>12</sup> *All have turned away,*

*they have together become worthless;*

*there is no one who does good,*

*not even one.”*

- Paul quotes the Psalms here to make a point that we are utterly and completely dependent upon God. None of us are righteous all on our own. We do carry the image of God within us from creation (see Genesis 1.26-28). There *is* good within each of us, but that which is good comes from God. And for that good within us to flourish and bear fruit, we depend on God's grace through Jesus Christ.
- *Pray for the humility to confess that you need God in order for good fruit to come from your life.*

## **WEDNESDAY: JAMES 4.7-10**

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

- The outcome of this humility that comes through trial, perseverance and wisdom from above, is that we might be lifted up. This is the path to truly being lifted up. It may seem counterintuitive to stoop lower in order to be lifted up, but this is precisely the path that Jesus took. He showed us how by humbling himself (Philippians 2.8-9) on the way to being lifted up in the resurrection.
- *Pray a prayer of gratitude for the humility of Christ that leads to your own eternal life.*

## THURSDAY: PROVERBS 22.4-6

*Humility is the fear of the Lord;  
its wages are riches and honor and life.*

<sup>5</sup> *In the paths of the wicked are snares and pitfalls,  
but those who would preserve their life stay far from them.*

<sup>6</sup> *Start children off on the way they should go,  
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

- We may not often think of humility earning us “wages” as Proverbs describes it. But it is true. A deep humility that comes from a fear of the Lord puts us in a position to receive deep riches and honor and life.
- *Ask God that your heart may continually be trained in the way it should go—that you would not turn from that way.*

## FRIDAY: 2 CHRONICLES 7.14

*if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

- Humility for God’s people is met by a God who listens, forgives, and heals. Where are you seeking healing and forgiveness within your own heart and life? In what ways does the land cry out for God’s intervention, forgiveness, and healing?
- *Pray for the land in which you live. Pray for a spirit of humility to lead yourself and others to the heart of God.*

## SATURDAY: PSALM 25.8-9

*Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.*

<sup>9</sup> *He guides the humble in what is right  
and teaches them his way.*

- The Psalmist declares that our good God wants better for us. And humility allows us to see God’s heart for us. Humility allows us to be led and instructed by God. Like the student who sits in a classroom and believes that there is much she does not yet know—there is much to learn, humility puts us in a position to worship and grow.
- *Pray and sit before God with the expectation that there is more for you to learn.*

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Pastor Jacob shared about the door to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. It is a small door that causes those who enter to stoop. Jacob invited us to follow him through the door of humility in our daily lives. He said that the door of humility leads to grace.

Have you ever entered into a space or situation that forced you to have a humble posture of heart? How is that position or posture transferable to other areas of your life?