

Breaking Free: Poison

Group Discussion Guide

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”
Proverbs 16:18

Have you ever witnessed pride leading to destruction in your own life? Start by sharing these stories.

“Pride is ruthless, sleepless, unsmiling concentration on the self.” C.S. Lewis

How does C.S. Lewis' definition of biblical pride differ from the way our culture defines pride? Is it possible to be prideful and not arrogant?

“(Jesus) wants to bring the man to a state of mind in which he could design the best cathedral in the world, and know it to be the best, and rejoice in the fact, without being any more or less glad at having done it than he would be if it had been done by another. (Jesus) wants him, in the end, to be so free from any bias in his own favor that he can rejoice in his own talents as frankly and gratefully as in his neighbor’s talents.”
C.S. Lewis

Take a minute to read the above quote carefully. How can we enjoy and celebrate our own gifts without being prideful?

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it’s thinking of yourself less.”

PRIDE DECIDES

Throughout scripture, pride is portrayed as a controlling force. How does pride control our emotions and actions? Can you think of some examples?

PRIDE DIVIDES

Try to think of an example of persistent conflict in some area of life: family, work, school, etc. How is pride at work in the situation?

PRIDE HIDES

Why do you think pride is so hard to see in the mirror? What other kinds of (good or bad) behaviors begin with pride?

“I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.” 1 Corinthians 4:3-4

Your verdict is in. Because of Christ's work, his performance determines your verdict. Though the verdict is a one-time pronouncement, understanding and living by it is an everyday struggle. What are some ways we can allow this verdict to free us from our pride?

Resources on Pride:

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness by Tim Keller

The Man The King Delights To Honor by Tim Keller