



COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Poverty of spirit is seeking to live Gods will rather than our own.

HEAD CHANGE: Pride is the enemy of the Kingdom of God.

HEART CHANGE: “God, I’ll do whatever you tell me to do.”

LIFE CHANGE: Participating in the way of Jesus by being poor in spirit.

OVERVIEW

The concept of poverty of spirit allows us to continue building a strong foundation in our faith. In our everyday lives, we often allow material abundance to feed into our pride, obstructing our acknowledgement of our spiritual bankruptcy. The inevitable self-righteous path we follow shifts the focus away from God's grace and we begin to believe we have single-handedly earned all our wealth. This narrative makes every aspect of our lives about us instead of about God. Jesus said that our pride will exclude us from the kingdom of God, and we must come with empty hands in order to open up the doors to everything the kingdom has to offer.

“Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble, but he keeps his distance from the proud.”

-Psalm 138:6-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you the most in this teaching? Why do think that resonated with you?
2. Who is someone – either fictional or real – who you think exemplifies being poor in spirit or having humility?
3. Which of the Signs of Pride stuck out to you?
4. Professor Jeff Cook has said, “Pride is not thinking too much of myself, it is thinking of myself far too much.” What do you think are the key differences between these two things and how does that connect to being “poor in spirit”?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Pray that we will put in the work to cultivate a culture of being "poor in spirit" both as individuals and as the church. If comfortable, share what you personally struggle with when it comes to pride during a time of confession. Thank God for loving us despite our pride and ask him to teach us to come to him with empty, open hands.

IN THIS TOGETHER!