

Selfishness/Pride — Day 1

Precious Promises Devotional Guide



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#156) — KJV

Proverbs 22:4 "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life."

💖 Apply the Promise!

True greatness does not come from bragging or pride. When you choose to be humble and put God first, He will reward your life with true honor, joy, and lasting blessings!

📖 Bible Story (Judges 7 & 8)

The Israelites were facing a large army of enemies called the Midianites. Gideon gathered thousands of soldiers to protect his people, but God told him the army was too large.

If Israel won with so many soldiers, the people might become proud and say, "We saved ourselves." God wanted them to understand that victory came from Him, not from their own strength.

So God made Gideon's army smaller and smaller until only three hundred men were left. They did not carry swords into battle. They carried trumpets, empty pitchers, and torches.

That night, Gideon and his men quietly surrounded the Midianite camp. At the signal, they broke their pitchers, held up their torches, blew their trumpets, and shouted. God confused the enemy army, and the Midianites fled.

Israel had won a great victory, but it was clear that God had done it. Gideon and his men could not brag about their numbers, weapons, or strength.

Afterward, the people wanted Gideon to rule over them. It would have been easy for him to take the honor for himself. But Gideon answered, "I will not rule over you. The Lord shall rule over you."

In that moment, Gideon pointed the people back to God. His story reminds us that pride wants to take the credit, but humility gives the glory to the Lord. When God helps us succeed, we can remember that every gift, talent, and victory comes from Him.

🌟 True Story

In the 1940s, an Italian cyclist named Gino Bartali became world-famous. He won the Tour de France and was celebrated as a hero. People cheered for him wherever he rode his bicycle.

During World War II, a dark time came to Europe. Many Jewish families were in danger and needed to escape to safety. Gino decided to use his fame as a cyclist to secretly help them.

He took a hollow bicycle frame and hid life-saving documents inside the metal tubes. Then, he rode his bicycle through the mountains for hundreds of miles. Soldiers thought he was just training for his next race.

Because he was a famous athlete, the guards never searched his bicycle. Gino quietly delivered the secret papers to hidden families. His secret deliveries helped save the lives of hundreds of people during the war.

After the war ended, Gino remained a quiet and humble man. He never held a press conference to tell the world about his good deeds. He never wrote a book to brag about the families he had rescued.

Gino believed that good deeds should be done quietly. He once told his son that certain medals are pinned to the soul, not the jacket. He wanted to do what was right without getting any praise. Gino's story reminds us that humility does not need applause. Pride wants everyone to notice, but love is willing to serve quietly. When we do good, we can let God see it, even if no one else ever knows.

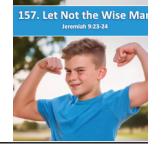
💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did the Israelites want Gideon to do after he defeated the Midianite army?
- How did Gino Bartali use his bicycle to secretly help people during the war?
- Proverbs 22:4 says humility brings honor. How can you show humility when you win a game or do something really well?

🎨 Activity:

Have children draw a happy face or write a kind note on small pieces of paper. Challenge them to secretly "smuggle" these notes into someone else's space (like a shoe or a bag) without being caught. The hardest rule is they can never brag or tell the person they did it! Discuss how doing good deeds in secret, like Gino Bartali, keeps our hearts humble.

Selfishness/Pride — Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#157) — KJV

Jeremiah 9:23–24 "...Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."

💖 Apply the Promise!

True greatness isn't found in how smart, strong, or rich we are. If we brag about anything, we should humbly brag that we know God, because knowing Him is the greatest treasure in the world!

📖 Bible Story (Daniel 4)

King Nebuchadnezzar ruled the great empire of Babylon. He commanded armies, conquered nations, and lived in a beautiful palace. But the king had a serious pride problem. He forgot that every gift, every kingdom, and every breath comes from God.

God sent Nebuchadnezzar a dream to warn him. The prophet Daniel explained that the king would lose his throne unless he turned away from his pride and showed mercy. But Nebuchadnezzar did not listen.

One year later, the king was walking on the roof of his palace. He looked out over the great city of Babylon and began to boast. He spoke as if his own power and greatness had built everything.

While the proud words were still in his mouth, a voice spoke from heaven. God said the kingdom was being taken from him. Nebuchadnezzar lost his understanding and lived outside like an animal. For seven years, he ate grass like an ox, and his hair and nails grew long.

At last, Nebuchadnezzar lifted his eyes to heaven. He stopped praising himself and honored the God who rules over all. Then his understanding returned, and God allowed him to become king again.

Nebuchadnezzar's story shows us that pride makes us forget where our blessings come from. When we are smart, strong, successful, or praised by others, we do not need to lift ourselves up. We can humbly remember that God gives every ability, and knowing Him is greater than any earthly honor.

☀️ True Story

In the 1900s, Robert G. LeTourneau became a successful inventor and businessman. He designed large earthmoving machines that helped build roads, dams, and airports. His ideas changed the way many construction jobs were done.

Many people admired his skill. His company grew, his machines became famous, and he earned a great deal of money. It would have been easy for Robert to become proud and say, "Look what I have done."

But Robert believed his abilities came from God. He did not want his success to make him selfish. Instead, he wanted his work and money to serve the Lord. The more his business grew, the more carefully he tried to remember that success was not something to worship. He saw his company as a tool God had trusted to him, not as a throne for his own pride.

Robert and his wife chose to live on a small part of their income and give much of the rest away. They supported missions, Christian education, and other work for God. Robert often said that he was not giving God's money away—he was keeping only part of what already belonged to God.

He did not want people to remember him only as a rich man or a clever inventor. He wanted his life to point to the Lord who had helped him.

Robert LeTourneau's life gives us a different picture of success. Humility is not pretending we have no gifts. It means remembering where our gifts came from and using them for God's glory. When God gives us money, skills, ideas, or success, we can choose service instead of selfish pride.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What happened to the king when God punished him for his terrible pride?
- What did Robert LeTourneau choose to do with the money his business earned?
- Jeremiah 9 tells us not to brag about being smart, strong, or rich. If we want to brag, what is the only thing we should ever brag about?

🎨 Activity:

Gather in a circle and explain that usually, bragging is a bad thing because it comes from pride. But Jeremiah says we can brag about how amazing God is! Set a timer for two minutes and take turns rapidly "bragging" about God. You can say things like, "My God created the stars!" or "My God healed my sickness!" or "My God is stronger than any army!" See how many wonderful things you can loudly boast about God before the timer goes off!

Selfishness/Pride — Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#158) — KJV

Matthew 20:26–28 "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

💖 Apply the Promise!

The greatest people in God's kingdom aren't the ones who act like bosses and demand to be served. True greatness means happily putting your pride away to serve others with a humble heart!

📖 Bible Story (John 13)

Jesus and His disciples gathered in an upper room for a special supper. In those days, people walked on dusty roads wearing sandals, so their feet became dirty and tired.

Usually, a servant would wash everyone's feet before a meal. But that evening, there was no servant in the room. The disciples could have helped each other, but none of them wanted the lowly job. They had even been arguing about which of them was the greatest.

Then Jesus did something that surprised them. He stood up from the supper, took off His outer garment, wrapped a towel around His waist, and poured water into a basin.

The King of heaven knelt on the floor and began washing His disciples' dirty feet. He did not wait for the disciples to become humble first. He showed them humility by doing the very job they were too proud to do. One by one, He washed and dried them, doing the work of a servant.

When Jesus finished, He explained the lesson. If He, their Lord and Master, was willing to serve them, then they should be willing to serve one another.

Jesus was teaching that true greatness is not found in acting important or being first. In His kingdom, the greatest person is the one who loves enough to serve.

This helps us see that pride waits for someone else to do the hard or unpleasant job, but humility steps forward to help. When we serve without complaining, we are following the example of Jesus.

☀️ True Story

In the late 1800s, Booker T. Washington became a respected educator in America. He helped build Tuskegee Institute, taught many students, and became a leader whom important people listened to.

Because of his position, it would have been easy for him to feel too important for ordinary work. But Booker did not believe greatness meant demanding special treatment. He believed in humility, service, and hard work.

One day, Dr. Washington was walking through a neighborhood when a woman who did not recognize him called out to him. She thought he was a worker passing by and asked if he would chop some firewood for her.

Booker could have been offended. He could have told her who he was and refused the job. Instead, he quietly took off his coat, picked up the ax, and chopped the wood. His greatness was shown, not by refusing the work, but by being willing to do it cheerfully.

Then he carried the wood into her house. Later, when the woman learned who had helped her, she felt embarrassed and went to apologize.

Dr. Washington kindly told her that he was glad to help. He did not need to prove that he was important. His humble spirit was greater than any title people could give him.

Booker T. Washington's choice gives us a picture of true honor. Pride says, "I am too important for this." Humility says, "I can help." When we are willing to serve in simple ways, we show the spirit of Jesus.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why didn't any of the disciples want to wash feet before supper?
- How did Booker T. Washington respond when asked to chop wood?
- Matthew 20 says the greatest person is a servant. What is one specific way you can serve your parents or siblings today without complaining?

🎨 Activity:

Give the children a washcloth and a small basin of warm water. Have them practice showing Christlike humility by carefully washing and drying each other's hands or feet. Discuss how Jesus, the King of the universe, chose to do the lowest job to teach His disciples that true greatness means serving others with a happy heart.

Selfishness/Pride — Day 4



Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#159) — KJV

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." **1 Corinthians 4:7** "For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" **James 1:17** "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." **John 3:27** "...A man can receive nothing, except it be given him

♥ Apply the Promise!

Absolutely every good thing we have is a beautiful gift from heaven! If we let foolish pride trick us into thinking we are great all by ourselves, it will always lead to a terrible fall.

Bible Story (2 Chronicles 26)

Uzziah became king of Judah when he was sixteen years old. During his early years, he sought the Lord and listened to godly counsel. As long as he looked to God, the Lord helped him.

God gave Uzziah great success. He built towers, dug wells, strengthened the army, and became a powerful king. People respected him, and his kingdom grew strong.

But success brought danger to Uzziah's heart. Instead of remembering that God had helped him, he began to think too highly of himself. His heart was lifted up with pride.

One day, Uzziah went into the temple to burn incense on the altar. God had given that work only to the priests, but Uzziah acted as if being king allowed him to do whatever he wanted.

Eighty priests followed him into the temple and warned him to leave. They were trying to protect him from sin. But Uzziah did not listen. Instead of accepting correction, he became angry.

While he stood there with the incense in his hand, leprosy broke out on his forehead. The priests hurried him out, and Uzziah himself rushed to leave because he knew God had judged his pride.

From then on, Uzziah had to live in a separate house because of his leprosy. His son Jotham took care of the king's duties for him. Uzziah's life shows how dangerous pride can be. When we forget that our strength, talents, and success come from God, our hearts become foolish. Humility listens to correction, obeys God's limits, and gives Him honor for every blessing.

True Story

In spring 2015, college athletes gathered in Oregon for a track competition. A runner named Tanguy Pepiot was competing in a long footrace. As he reached the final stretch, he took a large lead.

Pepiot was far ahead of the other runners on the track. He felt certain that he was going to win the gold medal. Instead of running hard to the end, his heart became proud.

Just steps away from the finish line, the proud runner slowed down. He started waving his hands and pointing to the cheering crowd. He wanted everyone in the stadium to applaud his easy victory.

Because he was busy showing off, he made a foolish mistake. He did not look over his shoulder to check the track behind him. He did not see another runner named Meron Simon approaching him.

Simon had not given up, and he was still running his hardest. While Pepiot was busy waving, the Simon zoomed right past him. Simon crossed the finish line at the last second and won.

Pepiot realized his mistake too late and fell to the ground. He lost the race because he celebrated his greatness before the work was done. His pride caused him to lose at the very end.

This story teaches us that showing off will often cost us a victory. When we become boastful, we stop paying attention to the important things. We win in life when we stay focused and keep a humble heart.

Discussion Questions:

- What terrible mistake did Uzziah make when he walked into the temple?
- How did Tanguy Pepiot lose the footrace right before he crossed the finish line?
- First Corinthians 4:7 asks, "What do you have that you did not receive?" What is one talent or gift you have that you need to remember to thank God for today?

Activity:

Have the children build a tower out of blocks, making it as tall as they possibly can. Discuss how the taller and more "puffed up" the tower gets, the more it wobbles! Explain that pride makes us think we are standing tall, but it makes our hearts weak. Have them loudly shout, "Pride comes before a fall!" and knock the tower completely down!

Selfishness/Pride — Day 5



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#160) — KJV

Philippians 2:5–8 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Apply the Promise!

True love means putting others first! Jesus left the spectacular glory of heaven to become a humble human servant for us, and He wants us to have that exact same humble attitude every day.

Bible Story (Luke 2 & Phil. 2)

Jesus is the Creator of the universe. Before He came to earth, He lived in the perfect glory of heaven. Angels constantly sang praises to Him, and He possessed all power.

Humans had a serious problem with sin, and we could not save ourselves. The only way to fix this broken relationship was for Jesus to come down to earth. He chose to make a great sacrifice.

When the King of heaven finally arrived, He did not come the way people expected. He did not march out of the clouds with a powerful army. He did not demand to be born in a palace.

He did not ask for wealthy servants to attend to His every need. Instead, Jesus made Himself of no reputation. He completely humbled Himself to become a servant for us.

He traded the beauty of heaven for a dusty stable filled with noisy animals. The mighty Creator became a tiny, helpless baby. He was wrapped in simple cloth and laid in a wooden feeding trough.

Jesus willingly gave up His heavenly privileges to live a simple, difficult life. He stepped off His royal throne and walked right into our messy world. He did this so He could ultimately save us.

This story teaches us that true greatness means putting others first. Jesus showed us what selfless love looks like by becoming a servant. We show humility when we choose to serve the people around us.

True Story

In the late 1600s, Peter Romanov ruled as the king of Russia. He lived in giant palaces, wore crowns covered in diamonds, and sat on a velvet throne. Thousands of servants obeyed his commands.

Peter realized his country had a serious problem. The Russian workers did not know how to build large, strong ships. He knew his nation was falling behind the rest of the world.

A proud king would have stayed comfortable and demanded that his servants figure it out. Peter made a surprising choice. He took off his royal robes and put on the rough clothes of a common worker.

He traveled far away to a busy shipyard in Holland. He quietly hid his true identity from the people there. The mighty ruler of Russia decided to work as a lowly carpenter.

For months, Peter spent his days working in the dirt. He swung a heavy hammer and sawed thick pieces of wood. He even took orders from a boss who had no idea he was a king.

Peter laid his pride aside to learn the difficult trade of shipbuilding. After mastering the craft, he brought his new skills back to Russia. He taught his people how to build a strong navy.

Peter's choice gives us a picture of humility. Pride says, "I am too important for hard or messy work." Humility says, "I can learn. I can work. I can serve." True greatness is not found in demanding to be served, but in being willing to lower ourselves to help others.

Discussion Questions:

- Instead of a golden palace, where was the King of the universe born?
- What surprising thing did King Peter do to help build ships for his country?
- Philippians 2 says we should have the "same mind" (or attitude) as Jesus. What is one way you can give up something you want today to put someone else first?

Activity:

Give each child a paper crown to decorate and have them write something they love or are proud of on it (like a favorite toy, a talent, or a prize). Place a basket in the middle of the room or classroom labeled "Putting Others First." Ask the children to humbly take off their crowns and place them in the basket, trading them for a small hand towel or a sticker that says "Servant." Discuss how Jesus willingly traded His heavenly crown to serve us.