

STUDY GUIDE

Week 9 – How Not to Wreck Your Life

The Higher You Climb, the Harder You Fall

Toward the scornful he is scornful,
but to the humble he gives favor.

PROVERBS 3:34

Arrogance is loud, blind, and headed for a crash. Humility? It's not weakness... it's wisdom with its feet on the ground

Text: Proverbs 3:34; 11:2; 16:18–19

SMALL GROUP GOAL

To identify the subtle ways pride shows up in our hearts and relationships and to embrace the humility of Jesus as the true path of wisdom and spiritual growth.

READ

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Proverbs 16:18

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE TEXT:

Proverbs 16:18 (ESV) says, *"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."*

In your own words, what does this verse reveal about the relationship between pride and consequences?

Proverbs 11:2 (ESV) says, *"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom."*

What contrast is being drawn here between pride and humility?

How might the Hebrew understanding of "wisdom" shape our interpretation of what it means to be "wise" in the context of humility?

Proverbs 3:34 (ESV) says, *"Toward the scorers he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor."*

What does this passage suggest about God's posture toward different kinds of people?

MEDITATION:

- In what ways does pride disguise itself in our modern culture?
- What are some "respectable" forms of pride we may excuse in ourselves?
- How does our culture reward pride and self-promotion?
- Can you think of a public figure or personal story where pride led to downfall? How did that story shape your view of success or failure?
- Read Philippians 2:3–8. What strikes you most about Christ's humility?
- How does His example challenge how you view your role in family, work, or leadership?
- What does humility look like practically in your everyday relationships (family, marriage, work)?
- Where is one area you sense God is calling you to go lower—not in worth, but in posture?
- How do you personally handle correction?
- Are you open to feedback, or do you instinctively defend yourself? What might humility require in those moments?

APPLICATION:

Where is pride sneaking in?

Think about your week—was there a moment when you felt the need to prove yourself, win an argument, or defend your image at all costs?

What would humility have looked like in that situation?

What do you think God was inviting you to do differently?

How can you practice going "lower" this week?

Consider a relationship where there's tension, ego, or distance.

What specific action could you take this week to serve, listen, or yield with humility?

Who helps you stay grounded?

Do you have people in your life who challenge your pride and encourage your humility?

What intentional steps can you take to stay accountable and open-hearted in your spiritual community?

PRAYER

- Ask God to help you stay open to correction.
- Ask God to help you prefer humility over recognition.
- Whether you're leading, parenting, or simply showing up to daily life, pray that your posture would reflect Christ

CHALLENGE

Find one specific area in your life work, family, finances... where pride is sneaking in.

This week, take one small step to humble yourself intentionally. It might be letting someone else lead, apologizing first, or asking for help.