

# Family Devotion

(for all ages)

## "Proud Cow Disease"



I Gotta Humble Myself Before The Lord!



### POWER VERSE

*"Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall."*  
- Proverbs 16:18

Pretend you're going to spend a month volunteering at church. The jobs below are some of the things you may be asked to do:

visit the elderly	clean the bathrooms
sing a solo	stuff bulletins
deliver food to the homeless	run the sound system
run errands for a pastor	run errands for a janitor
pray before every service	vacuum the sanctuary
answer phones	clean the nursery
change diapers in the nursery	cook for a luncheon
teach a class	

Talk about the following questions:

- Which jobs would you most like to do?
- Which jobs would you least like to do?
- Are there any jobs you simply would not do? If so, which ones and why?

Most of us look at the list and find some jobs that we like better than others. Maybe you can't carry a tune, so you wouldn't want to sing a solo. Or maybe you really enjoy praying, so you would enjoy being on the prayer team. That's fine—God has given each of us gifts and talents, so it's natural that we'd like some jobs better than others.

However, if you look at any of the jobs and think, "I'd never do that" or "You couldn't pay me enough to do that job," it may be you're suffering from pride. Read James 4:6 and discuss the following questions:

- How would you define pride?
- Why does God oppose the proud?
- How would you define humility?
- Why does God give grace (or favor) to the humble?

# Family Devotion

(for all ages)

## "Proud Cow Disease"



I Gotta Humble Myself Before The Lord!



### POWER VERSE

*"Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall."*  
- Proverbs 16:18

Pretend you're going to spend a month volunteering at church. The jobs below are some of the things you may be asked to do:

visit the elderly	clean the bathrooms
sing a solo	stuff bulletins
deliver food to the homeless	run the sound system
run errands for a pastor	run errands for a janitor
pray before every service	vacuum the sanctuary
answer phones	clean the nursery
change diapers in the nursery	cook for a luncheon
teach a class	

Talk about the following questions:

- Which jobs would you most like to do?
- Which jobs would you least like to do?
- Are there any jobs you simply would not do? If so, which ones and why?

Most of us look at the list and find some jobs that we like better than others. Maybe you can't carry a tune, so you wouldn't want to sing a solo. Or maybe you really enjoy praying, so you would enjoy being on the prayer team. That's fine—God has given each of us gifts and talents, so it's natural that we'd like some jobs better than others.

However, if you look at any of the jobs and think, "I'd never do that" or "You couldn't pay me enough to do that job," it may be you're suffering from pride. Read James 4:6 and discuss the following questions:

- How would you define pride?
- Why does God oppose the proud?
- How would you define humility?
- Why does God give grace (or favor) to the humble?

# Family Devotion

## (continued)

Both pride and humility are attitudes of the heart. The list below shows some differences in the attitudes. Can your family think of more?

### Pride

I'm too good to do that job  
I take credit for what God's done  
I want people to praise me  
for what I do  
I deserve to be recognized for  
for what I do

### Humility

I'll do whatever needs to be done  
I give God credit for what He's done  
I want to give God praise through  
what I do  
God deserves to be recognized  
what He's doing through me

A good way to check your pride level is to ask yourself, "How would I feel if I did this job and no one saw it or acknowledged it?" People who are prideful want to call attention to themselves, while people who are humble are content in knowing God sees their work. While they know there's nothing wrong with feeling good when other people appreciate their work, that's not the reason behind what they do.

Sometimes it may seem like people who work behind the scene may be more humble than people in more visible ministries, but that's not necessarily the case. People who scrub toilets and people who preach to thousands both have to decide what attitude they'll have. And Colossians 3:17 tells us what that attitude should be: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

As you pray together, think about your areas of ministry. Ask God to help you have the right attitude and pure motives as you serve Him.

# Family Devotion

## (continued)

Both pride and humility are attitudes of the heart. The list below shows some differences in the attitudes. Can your family think of more?

### Pride

I'm too good to do that job  
I take credit for what God's done  
I want people to praise me  
for what I do  
I deserve to be recognized for  
for what I do

### Humility

I'll do whatever needs to be done  
I give God credit for what He's done  
I want to give God praise through  
what I do  
God deserves to be recognized  
what He's doing through me

A good way to check your pride level is to ask yourself, "How would I feel if I did this job and no one saw it or acknowledged it?" People who are prideful want to call attention to themselves, while people who are humble are content in knowing God sees their work. While they know there's nothing wrong with feeling good when other people appreciate their work, that's not the reason behind what they do.

Sometimes it may seem like people who work behind the scene may be more humble than people in more visible ministries, but that's not necessarily the case. People who scrub toilets and people who preach to thousands both have to decide what attitude they'll have. And Colossians 3:17 tells us what that attitude should be: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

As you pray together, think about your areas of ministry. Ask God to help you have the right attitude and pure motives as you serve Him.