

## Community Group Discussion Guide

## Week of July 12, 2015

<u>This Week's Focus</u>: Pride is the barrier to living in wisdom and it leads to eternal destruction, but through the Gospel we are redeemed, transformed, and empowered to live a life of wisdom in humility that glorifies God.

<u>This Week's Text</u>: Proverbs 11:1-2, 13:10, 21:4, 18:1, 16:17-18, 29:23

"According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." **C.S.** 

## Lewis, Mere Christianity

"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." **Romans 12:16-18** 

Related Texts: Isaiah 14:12-15; Romans 1:18-19; Philippians 2:3-11

## Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What was most inspiring about this week's text/sermon?
- Define pride. What is the difference between good pride and foolish pride?
- Read Proverbs 11:1-2. Who is the fool in this passage? What does it mean to use false weights? How does the wise and humble person perform his/her business dealings?
- Read Proverbs 13:10. Discuss why the prideful person's life is characterized by strife. On the other hand, how is the wise person's life characterized by peace? Does this Proverb promise a peaceful, easy life? Reference Romans 12:16-18.

- Idolatry is lifting anything or anyone to the place where only God belongs. It's worshipping and adoring and treasuring anything more than God. Is idolatry the same as pride? Why or why not?
- According to Proverbs 16:17-18, what is the inevitable result of pride?
- How does pride affect our relationship with God our Creator? How does it contribute to an
  identity crisis? Reference Romans 1:18-19 and Genesis 1:27. Why does it lead to isolation rather
  than community? Reference Proverbs 18:1.
- Explain how hell is the only punishment that fits the sin of pride/idolatry.
- According to Proverbs 29:23, what is the antidote to pride? How does humility differ from low self-esteem or an inferiority complex?
- How did Jesus' life, death, and resurrection (the Gospel) purchase our freedom from pride?
   Reference Philippians 2:3-11.
- How do these passages point to the Gospel and the mission of God's Church?

**Next Week's Text**: Anger