

WEEKLY GAME PLAN

From Pride To Humility

Read Hebrews 11:39-12:2

Context: For every curse from the enemy there is a cure from Jesus. The enemy has been studying us carefully to see what will make us stumble and fall. He is hellbent on distracting us from what's right in front of us. Jesus has marked out the race set before us. He is our pacesetter. When we keep our eyes focused on Him, we are much more likely to finish the race with joy. If you have ever run a race, even when you were a child, you ran much faster when you had a crowd cheering you on. We have to remember that we do have a great cloud of witnesses that are cheering us on, that want to see us finish the race strong.

Reflection Question: What stumbling blocks do you refuse to recognize? Why do you think this is? What would help you to acknowledge those things that repeatedly trip you up? How can you ask a trusted friend to help encourage you when you are struggling with a repeated sin?

Read James 1:14-16 ESV

Context: The enemy uses deception to manipulate us into believing that the sin we want is not that big a deal, that we deserve it, that God doesn't want us to have it because He wants to ruin our fun, that we can do it just this once, or just one more time. When we continue to mull these thoughts over, we get a little more desensitized to how bad we know they really are. We know right away that the thought we have is not right. But if we choose not to master our thoughts, and instead give in to continuing down the wrong path, we are warned that it leads to death, maybe the death of a relationship, of a good job, of our freedom, or real, physical death.

Reflection Question: How can you take your thoughts captive and make them obedient to Christ? What do you really believe about some of the boundaries God has put in place for you? What makes us believe that we know better than God?

Read Luke 18:9-14 NLT

Context: When we recognize exactly who we're praying to, we can't help but fall on our knees in gratitude. If we really consider who God is and who we are in comparison, there's just no way to stand in our own righteousness and goodness. The closer we get to God, the more we understand that we need God and the more that we understand that every good thing is from Him. The only way we can walk away from a time in prayer with God is to recognize that we need His mercy every moment of every day.

Reflection Question: Why do you pray? What reasons do you have to spend time in prayer with God? How much of your prayer life is about you and how much of it is about God?

Read John 3:26-30 NLT

Context: John knew that none of it was about him. It was *all* about Jesus. Everything that he said and everyone that he baptized was about pointing them to Jesus. John didn't want any of the fame, or numbers or notoriety. He just wanted to serve Christ. He knew what his purpose was and he found fulfillment in that purpose. Jesus elevated John because John wanted Jesus to have the spotlight.

Reflection Question: Who gets the credit for the good things in your life? How can you point others to Christ when someone observes something great happening to you? Why is this important?

Read 2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV

Context: God knows we are not perfect. He knows we will mess up. He has made a way for us to come back to Him. If we choose to humble ourselves, and seek Him and repent, then He will listen to our prayers and forgive us. There is always a way back to Him. And over, and over again, He will welcome our repentant heart.

Reflection Question: What do you need to repent for this week? If you feel far from God, what do you think stands between you and Him? How can you seek His face?

End in prayer. Pride goes before destruction. Choose humility this week!