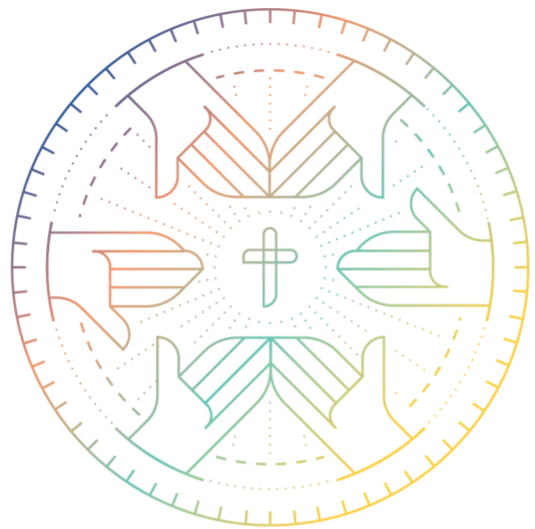


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## MEETING AGENDA

### WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

This week we continue our series, *Light in the Darkness*. Humility is essential to godly influence. It gives our lives credibility, especially among those with whom we disagree. Humility and respect open the door to being able to influence those around us toward finding hope and a changed heart through Jesus.

- Please don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email. It's so important!

### ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

When you think about those who have influenced your life the most, who comes to mind?

OR

Humility is treating others the same way we would treat them if they were someone "important." Who is the most important person you've ever met?

### INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What was one idea from Pastor David's message that particularly stood out to you? Share that with the group.

As you reflect on David's message, what are the negative connotations of humility? What is false humility? How would you describe the difference between a prideful person and a humble person?

### INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Dan. 4:24-27, 32-36.

What was the strange experience in v.25 that was to come upon Nebuchadnezzar and why did it happen (v.32)?

How is Daniel's counsel to the King in v.27 both surprising and not so surprising?

What was accomplished through this strange series of events?

H.O.S.T. Guidance: Nebuchadnezzar's mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the animals in the field, eating grass like an ox. God clearly wanted to humble Nebuchadnezzar so that he would see himself in relation to Most High. Daniel's counsel to the King was surprising in that any word spoken to him which brought displeasure could have resulted in Daniel's death. Remember Nehemiah's trepidation in speaking as he did to King Artaxerxes (Neh. 1:11)? What courage! Yet, Daniel's counsel is not surprising, since he consistently chose faith and obedience in how he related to his life in Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar ultimately gave glory to the Most High, Daniel's God, and recognized he accounted for "nothing" in comparison.

2. Read Matthew 11:29-30.

Clearly, Daniel and his friends had given their lives completely to God. What are the benefits of accepting Jesus' invitation to give ourselves completely to God come? What does it mean to take his yoke upon us? How does knowing that Jesus carries our burdens produce humility in us (a humble dependance on Him)?

H.O.S.T. Guidance: If we accept Jesus' invitation (emphasize our part in coming to him) he will replace our weariness and heavy burdens with His rest. If we learn from Jesus, we will become more like Him: restful, gentle and lowly in heart. The word, "lowly" means meek and humble; the opposite of self-exalted. We become more humble as we become more like our humble Savior.

3. Read Daniel 6:25-28.

How did God reward Daniel for his humble service? What does this teach us about the character of God?

H.O.S.T. Guidance: God always rewards faithfulness. We need to see that our lifestyle and testimony have an impact on the world around us. Daniel's humble and respectful life and that of his friends changed history and influenced the most powerful empire of his day.

### APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

H.O.S.T. Guidance: Don't feel pressure to cover all the questions below. Pick the one or two questions that might lead to the best conversation, but if time allows, include the others.

Why do quarrels turn people off from the gospel? What tends to be a better approach? Why?

Can your group name some of the ways that Jesus demonstrated humility?

Why is Jesus's yoke light? What does Jesus do in your life today that brings rest to your soul? In other words, how do you experience the rest that God desires you to enjoy?

David shared the three "Humility is not..." statements below. Discuss with your group how you would express the opposite of each of those statements. For example, what is the opposite of low self-esteem and how would you describe it in regard to humility?

1. Humility is not low self-esteem. Humility is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Humility is not lack of ambition. Humility is \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Humility is not downplaying our accomplishments. Humility is \_\_\_\_\_.

H.O.S.T. Guidance: Be sure to leave some time to close your meeting with the thoughts below. If you haven't already, pass out the Invite Cards that were in your H.O.S.T. Kit.

David said, "Humility is influencing in order to persuade people toward faith."

Is there someone whom you are influencing toward faith in Jesus? Has God placed on your heart two people in your life who need hope? Can you invite them to our Easter services? Spend some time as you close in prayer, praying for those people who need the hope of Jesus.

## PRAYER

*Heavenly Father,  
We acknowledge that humility is not only essential to godly influence, but it is a virtue that characterized the life of Jesus. We want our lives to have credibility with the world around us so that we can influence people toward faith in Jesus. We long to see changed hearts that are given freely and completely to You. Help us to be people of humility and respect as we influence and pray for those we are inviting to Easter services. May you do something amazing in all of our hearts as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.*