

WEEK 2
YOUTH DAILY DEVOTIONAL
PRIDE. AMBITION. ARROGANCE

OVERVIEW: This week we are going to dive into the first truth found in Psalm 131, we are proud, ambitious, and arrogant people. Our proud heart and haughty eyes distort our perception of reality, making us think that we have some semblance of control. As we pilgrimage through Psalm 131, we must get rid of the things that keep our focus on ourselves and turn our eyes toward God.

DAY ONE:

BREATHE: Calm. Quiet. Hope. Trust.

Take a few minutes and practice our breathing prayer as you come into God's presence. Calm your heart. Quiet your soul. Hope in the Lord. Trust now and always. Calm. Quiet. Hope. Trust.

MUSIC: Listen to Psalm 131 by Ari Lesser

OPENING PRAYER: Psalm 131 (CSB)

Lord, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I do not get involved with things too great or too wondrous for me. Instead, I have calmed and quieted my soul like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like a weaned child. Put your hope in the Lord, both now and forever. Amen

READ: Psalm 131:1, NLT

Lord, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty.

I don't concern myself with matters too great or too awesome for me to grasp.

CONSIDER:

- What does it mean to have a proud heart? [Pride] Why is pride dangerous? How have you seen pride damage your life?
- What does it mean to have haughty eyes? [Ambition] Why is ambition dangerous? How have you seen ambition damage your life?
- What does it mean to concern yourself with matters too great or too awesome? [Arrogance] Why is arrogance dangerous? How have you seen arrogance damage your life?

PONDER: Do you need to confess pride, ambition, or arrogance to God? Don't worry, he'll forgive you.

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CLOSING PRAYER: Psalm 131 (NLT)

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READ: Luke 12:16-21, The Parable of the Rich Fool

16 Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. 17 He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' 18 Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. 19 And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' 21 "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

CONSIDER:

- How does this man embody a proud heart [pride] and haughty eyes [ambition] and concern for matters too great or too awesome [arrogance]?
- What was the consequence for his pride, ambition, and arrogance? Do you think this consequence was appropriate?
- What do you think Jesus is attempting to teach through this parable? What dangers is he wanting us to avoid? What perspective does he want us to adopt?

READ: Matthew 6:21

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Jesus

PONDER: Are you putting your treasure in your pride, ambition, or arrogance, or is Jesus your treasure?

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READ: James 4: 13-16 (NLT)

13 Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." 14 How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. 15 What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." 16 Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

CONSIDER:

- What similarities do you find between this passage and the Parable of the Rich Fool?
- Does this passage teach us that it is wrong to make future plans? How might making future plans lead to pride, ambition, and arrogance?
- What might be the problem with declaring your plans for the future? How could that be considered prideful, ambitious, or arrogant?
- Why is it important to remember that we are a vapor and need to seek the Lord's will when making plans? How might having this perspective allow us to avoid pride, ambition, and arrogance?

READ: Matthew 6:33

"Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." – Jesus

PONDER: Are you seeking your kingdom or God's kingdom? How is that going for you?**READ: Psalm 131:1, (NLT)**

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Luke 18:18-27: The Rich Young Ruler

18 Once a religious leader asked Jesus this question: "Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"

19 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "Only God is truly good. 20 But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother.'"

21 The man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young."

22 When Jesus heard his answer, he said, "There is still one thing you haven't done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 23 But when the man heard this, he became very sad, for he was very rich.

CONSIDER:

- How did this young man approach Jesus with a sense of false humility? How did he display pride, ambition, and arrogance? How does Jesus point out this man's false humility?
- What was the one thing he lacked? Was it more than a love for money? What do you think was the root of this man's unwillingness to surrender?
- What happiness would this man have found if he had surrendered to Jesus? How would he have discovered a calm heart and a quiet soul?

LUKE 18:27: "What is impossible for people is possible with God."- Jesus

PONDER: Does it feel impossible to surrender your pride, ambition, and arrogance. Share with God the things you find impossible and ask Him to make it possible.

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DAY FIVE:**BREATHE:** Calm. Quiet. Hope. Trust.

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PONDER: The cure for pride, ambition, and arrogance is surrender. We surrender control to God when you calm your heart and quiet your soul, hope in the Lord, trust now and always. This is a continual process of submission to God and reliance on his direction for your life.

Read Proverbs 3:5-12.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.

Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.

My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you.

For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.[a]

CONSIDER:

- What do these proverbs say about following our pride, ambition, and arrogance?
- What instructions does it give about surrendering to God?
- What are the promises that God makes to those who surrender?
- How can reflecting on this proverb help calm your heart and quiet soul?

READ: (adapted from Proverbs 3 & Psalm 131)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, a heart that is not proud

Don't be wise in your own eyes; eyes that are not haughty

Don't rely on your own understanding; don't seek things too great or awesome.

Instead, in all your ways know him, discover a calm and quiet soul

Put your hope in the Lord, trust in him and he will make my paths straight.

CLOSING PRAYER: Psalm 131 (NLT)

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