



Humility in a Culture of Self Obsession | Ethan Matott | 8.15.21

## Weekly Study

### START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**What is your favorite holiday?**

### SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Ethan preached a strong message on the power of humility. The King of all kings and Lord of all lords lowered himself from paradise to serve rather than be served. Jesus came to save rather than save himself. Influence only operates on the shoulders of humility. Without it, we find ourselves with pride which eventually leads to our downfall. Before we dive into the sermon, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

**What's one thing you're praying for this week?**

**What is one thing you feel like God is teaching you right now?**

**What was the most challenging part of your week?**

**What was the highlight of your week?**

GROW

**Read Daniel 1:1-20**

**How does Daniel's humility correlate to the context of Ethan's message on Sunday?**

**From this passage, can you identify one tangible way in which you can display humility to others in your daily walk by your relationships, integrity, or faith?**

In this passage, we find that Daniel, Meshack and Abednego are faced with the cultural divide between serving king Nebuchadnezzar and serving God. This week, Ethan helped us identify three key building blocks that define humility: relationships, integrity and faith.

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Daniel, Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego, to change their way of life, this also include their names (their identity) in order to serve him. They were pulled from their community and culture to live to serve Nebuchadnezzar over Yahweh. However, in the end, God's way proved better. Just as Daniel and friends, we are often faced with situations that test our humility and pride. When the broad gate sounds better in the moment than the narrow road. God honors when we humble ourselves to Him and display humility in those situations. It shows our trust in Him which ultimately leads to putting others over ourselves. That proved to be Daniel's building block in creating relationships. In this story, these four men were able to create a relationship with the Nebuchadnezzar through their humility, not by conforming to the way the king wanted them to.

Through humility, Daniel was able to have influence with the Babylonian king. Because of their humility and respect by asking, God caused the king's guard to be influenced by Daniel, showing him that by not eating the choice food they would be in better shape than the other men. They stood up for what they believed was true for them, not easily conforming.

**What can you learn from Daniel's act of obedience in this passage to apply in your current situation?**

**In what ways can humility lead you to choose Jesus in the toughest of situations?**

M O V E

**James 4:6-10**

**How does this passage correlate with Ethan's message from Sunday?**

**What point do you think James, the author of this passage, is trying to drive home to Believers?**

Through *strong* words, James – also known as Jesus's half-brother – reminds Believers the importance of relying on God as opposed to self in this passage. King Nebuchadnezzar's story depicted the example and outcome to self-reliance and pride: self-destruction. From building his own kingdom full of earthly pleasures and luxuries, using his own wisdom – or folly, to finding himself in the woods with the animals. However, God depicted an even better image of His grace when Nebuchadnezzar eventually chose to humble himself and submit to God. Stories with endings like Nebuchadnezzar's shows us that outrunning His grace is an impossible task: even for the proud. Which is why God's grace through Jesus is the *only* excuse and explanation for Believers to humble ourselves and submit to something bigger over self.

*"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble"* (verse 6). Daniel's story in the Old Testament paints the image of humility for Christians to follow. Through Daniel's humble obedience, he gained favor and respect in the eyes of their enemies. Though tested on multiple accounts, Daniel and his friends came out of the furnace untouched, and Babylon turned into a desolate memory.

While Daniel's story inspires us to live in humility, we know that Jesus modeled it better. The Messiah, Savior of the world, left paradise to be homeless. He left a feast with legions of angels to dine with the lowly. He left golden streets to walk the road less traveled. He came to serve rather than be served, washing his disciples' feet the night he would be unjustly crucified. The proud would mock and kill him, yet instead of revolting, he asked for the Father's grace and forgiveness over them.

**Who's one person in your life you can serve this week?**

**Who's one person you can pray for this week?**

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*  
– Philippians 2:3-4