

# life groups

NLC Weekly Sermon Study

Week of April 23, 2017  
Sermon: Path—Don't Trip!



NEW LIFE  
CHURCH

# Schedule

**30 MIN** Eat, Meet & Greet

**15 MIN** Ice Breaker Game: **How Much Do You Use?** Have everyone sit in a circle. Tell them you are going to pass around a roll of toilet paper, and invite them to “take as much as they need to get the job done.” After they take as much paper as they “need,” explain that for every piece of toilet paper they ripped off, they must tell the group one thing about themselves.

**NOTE:** Feel free to use as much or as little of the following study as you like, in whatever way flows most naturally for your group.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Easter: 29,000 in attendance at 48 services, with more than 800 decisions for Christ—by far one of the most rewarding weekends at NLC! Baptism at all services this weekend is also one of our favorite things to do!

## **45–60 MIN PATH—Don’t Trip**

- PATH is a series about your daily walk with God, the practical ways to deal with problems, purpose, and people in your life.
- Today’s focus is Pride—making yourself bigger and God smaller.
  - › Pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you.
  - › Pride was the sin in the Garden: “If you eat of this tree, you will be like God...”

**Q1.** First, see who can tell the most embarrassing story about themselves! Why is your most embarrassing story embarrassing to you?

### **HAVE SOMEONE READ PSALM 23:1-3 AND JAMES 4:6**

- When God is with you, anything can happen, but when pride is involved, nothing good happens.
- A man on his face before God will never fall from that position.

### **READ PROV. 16:18, PROV. 18:12, JAMES 4:6, & JOHN 3:30**

- John the Baptist was humble: “I am not worthy to tie his shoes.”
  - › Pride has a need to be noticed, but humility notices the need. Pride makes us artificial, but humility makes us real. We choose to be humble or be humiliated. We get to make the call.
- Pride says “I’ve got to look out for #1. I’ve got to do what’s best for me. I deserve it.” Pride creates division.

### **READ PROVERBS 11:2, 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4, & ROMANS 12:9**

- You cannot promote yourself and develop your walk with God at the same time, because God is love, and love is never boastful or proud.

# WHAT DOES PRIDE DO TO A BELIEVER?

## PRIDE PRODUCES DECEIVING MISTAKES

**READ PROV. 13:10, OBADIAH 1:3, & PHILIPPIANS 2:3**

- Pride produces **blind spots**. You think others are wrong, not you. It keeps you from admitting you don't understand.
  - › **Selfish ambition** is when life is all about ME, my needs, my desires, and my wants.
  - › **Vain conceit** is thinking you know it all and don't need to listen to others. It causes us to jump to wrong conclusions, but **humility** says, "I can listen to and learn from anyone."

**Q2.** Think about a time when you thought everybody was wrong, but you chose to think you might not know everything. Was there any fear attached, or did you feel like you were about to lose control over the situation? How did things turn out?

## PRIDE PREVENTS SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Pride keeps you from having a teachable spirit and being led by the Holy Spirit. Conversely, the word Disciple means "learner," to continuously maintain a teachable spirit. When I think I have it altogether, I have no motivation to keep learning.

**Q3.** In what practical ways have you overcome pride and maintain a teachable spirit in your own life?

- Pride is one reason you need friends! "As iron sharpens iron, one friend sharpens another." You need that kind of friction in your life!
  - › It takes strong friends who are willing to point out pride.

**Q4.** Do you have a friend who sharpens you?

**HAVE SOMEONE READ PROVERBS 10:17 AND PROVERBS 26:12**

- Many who are great with finances also have a financial adviser, demonstrating that they're always teachable.
  - › A prideful person may take advice about marriage but not parenting. Or you can teach them how to fish better, but not about how much money to spend on a boat.

**Q5.** Are there others who may know more about your area of expertise than you? Do you seek them out? Do you spend time with them?

## PRIDE PREVENTS INTIMACY

**HAVE SOMEONE READ JAMES 5:16**

- You can't get close to prideful people. They build walls around themselves, but humility brings people closer.

# WHAT IS THE ANTIDOTE TO PRIDE?

1. ADMIT WHEN YOU ARE WRONG.

**HAVE OTHERS READ ECCLESIASTES 7:20 AND ROMANS 3:23**

**Q6.** Describe a time, when you admitted you were wrong, that the end result didn't turn out the way you expected.

2. RECOGNIZE GOD'S GRACE.

**TAKE TURNS READING ACTS 11:21-24 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 4:7**

- Everything you have—your life, job, career, family—all belongs to God. You would have nothing if it weren't for Him.

**Q7.** How can you cultivate a habit of recognizing God's grace in your life?

3. GIVE THANKS IN WORSHIP.

**HAVE OTHERS READ JOHN 4:23 AND HEBREWS 12:28-29**

- Pride causes awkwardness in worship.
  - › Some raise their hands high in worship, thinking "Look at me."  
Others keep their hands down, thinking "They may see me." Both types of people are thinking about themselves.

**Q8.** When in a worship setting, what can you do to protect yourself from being self-conscious?

**TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAY OVER NEEDS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Please refer to your service guide for campus-specific announcements.