
DAILY DEVOTIONAL

The Storyteller / Week 4

WEEK 4

FORGIVE LIKE YOU'VE BEEN FORGIVEN.

But he gives us more
grace. That is why
Scripture says: "God
opposes the proud but
shows **favor to the
humble.**"

JAMES 4:6 NIV

DAY 1

Have you ever tried to hide a mistake from someone you love? Kept it a secret from your friends or family because you were afraid of what they'd think or say? You were sure that if they found out, you'd be done for, totally embarrassed, and never able to show your face around them again. Believe it or not, so many men and women in the Bible knew what it was to make mistakes like that. They felt the same way we all feel sometimes!

But as this verse from James reminds us, Jesus offers more grace than our mess ups could ever create. So when we mess up, the best thing we can do is tell God. We can own it and be honest about it, because when we do, God gives us grace. **Ask God to help you own your mess ups, and watch how He gives His grace to you.**

"For all those who
exalt themselves
will be humbled, and
those who humble
themselves will be
exalted."

LUKE 14:11 NIV

DAY 2

God has uniquely created you just the way you are. All your gifts and talents, your personality, the unique things that make you... well, you—all of those things were given to you specifically by God. What's even cooler is that God created us to display our gifts and talents to the world. To humbly represent who He is by sharing who He made us to be with others.

One of the easiest ways to reflect God's character and heart to the people in your life is to use your gifts and talents to serve them. **So today, find someone you can share your talent with. It could be as simple as helping a classmate catch up on his homework, or working with a friend struggling on her jump shot, or saving a seat for someone new at lunch.** Whatever it is, use the way God wired you to serve someone else in your life this week.

When pride comes,
then comes disgrace,
but with humility
comes wisdom.

PROVERBS 11:2 NIV

DAY 3

Think about a subject or interest that you love and know everything about. It might be a sports team, a favorite YouTube channel, school subject, or hobby. Now imagine you overhear a few people talking or maybe you see a comment thread on social media about it and everything you hear about it is all wrong. You immediately jump in to be a part of the conversation to set things straight. Then you find out that the fact you put out there was proven all wrong! Awkward, right?

You might wish that you could have avoided this situation and an easy answer might be to just know everything about everything, but we all know that's not practical (or possible). Instead, God says humility is the better route to take to find wisdom. Humility helps us to be wise with what we do and what we say. **This week, take a picture of this verse or type it on a notes app and save it as your phone's wallpaper as a way to remind you to choose humility over pride.**

For those who exalt
themselves will
be humbled, and
those who humble
themselves will be
exalted.

MATTHEW 23:12 NIV

DAY 4

So often when we make mistakes, our first response isn't to admit it and apologize. If we're being honest, most of us would probably say our first response is to try and defend ourselves. Instead of choosing a humble posture and owning our actions, we let pride lead us to attempt to defend why we did what we did. To somehow prove that we're right. But as this verse reminds us, humility is the way to win. If we want to grow as people and in our faith, we have to choose humility at every turn. Even when it's hard, and even when it means admitting we're wrong.

Think honestly for a minute. Is there someone in your life who needs to hear you admit and apologize for a choice? Someone who you owe some humility to? **Take a bold step to act in humility by owning your actions with that person this week.**

**"He must become
greater; I must
become less."**

JOHN 3:30 NIV

DAY 5

In every story, there is always a protagonist—the main character who sits at the center of it all. All of the other characters are important, but they serve a supporting role, advancing the message and purpose of the main character. The author of this verse, a guy named John, was a supporting character. He knew his role was to support the One around whom the action was centered: Jesus. In order for Jesus' message to spread, John had to let Jesus' message be the greatest thing. He had to become less to see more of God at work in and around Him. And the same is true for us!

When we take ourselves out of the center of our lives, we make room for Jesus' presence to increase. And the greater He becomes in us, the greater the impact we'll have in sharing His message with the world. **This week, think about an area in your life that is going well. It can be a sport, a relationship, or a class at school, then find ways you can share your faith to others in that area.**