

Growth Group Discussion Questions
For Our Growth Groups
“Mind Games”- Part 1
“The Forgotten Path To Greatness”
Week of October 17, 2021

Summary- *Mind Games* is a series of messages to see how significant our thinking is in determining our current and future behavior. It makes transformation of our minds and thinking essential if we are to follow Jesus where He wants us to go to serve Him and love the people He died and rose again for!

This week, we explored background on why “mind games” affects all of us! We have competing ideas trying to get control of us for commercial, political and religious reasons! We saw how self-talk causes us to “live out” our thoughts in our minds!

And what we keep playing over and over in our minds we do something about! Our attitudes are born from this kind of considering, and we need the right input here, the Word of God, to teach us and to transform our thinking.

And how impactful to realize... that spiritual things (living for Jesus)... are often *counter-intuitive* to our physical lives & thinking we are so used to. That will be one of our greatest challenges to deal with- to get life right going forward!

And then we looked at the first “mind struggle” to consider... Humility!

It’s not a lack of confidence or a low opinion of ourselves that drives humility but just the opposite. We come at humility from a place of being deeply loved and empowered by Jesus. His example gives us the pattern to live a humility-filled life.

May our discussions on humility take us on a meaningful journey this week!

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. This week we heard that humility does not mean we lack confidence or never speak of our achievements. Yet, the difference between confidence and arrogance can be a fine line. For example, if a person you didn’t know walked into the room and spoke about a great accomplishment they just achieved, would you tend to think they are confident or arrogant?
2. What might be some indicators that you have crossed the line from being confident to arrogant? (Hint: look at Phil. 2:3-4)
3. To what extent do you think humility is a choice?

GOING DEEPER

1. The fact that “gentle and humble” (Matthew 11:29) are the only character qualities Jesus uses to describe himself in the New Testament definitely points to their importance. How do the following verses reinforce the importance of humility and its role in our lives?

Psalm 18:27 You rescue the humble, but you humiliate the proud.

Proverbs 11:2 Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Psalm 25:9 He leads the humble in doing right, teaching them his way.

Psalm 149:4 For the Lord delights in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

- a. Can you think of a time when you’ve seen the results of these verses show up in your life when you’ve acted humbly?
2. How do the following verses describe how humility can be built into our lives as followers of Jesus?

Colossians 3:12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Deuteronomy 8:2, 3 Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands...3 Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

3. Ben gave us a great way to put humility into action by practicing the “guest of honor principle.” We also heard that humility is not a state of mind or something we feel, but

rather an action. What can you learn from the following verses about what humility looks like and how to put it into action?

James 5:16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

1 Peter 4:8 Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Hebrews 3:13 You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

Proverbs 12:15 Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.

4. Jesus described greatness (“be first among you”) as a possible goal for those who would desire it in this life. Read the following passages and discuss what real greatness is & how you might achieve it.

Matt. 20:25 But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. 26 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. 28 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”