CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS
AUGUST 01 2026

Scripture Story: Isaiah 57:15; James 4:6; Isaiah 41:10.
Commentary: *The Great Controversy* (or *Love Under Fire*), chapters 9, 10.

great humility



Photo by Colleen Cahill

flashlight

"The heavenly Teacher passed by the great men of the earth, the titled and wealthy, who were accustomed to receive praise and homage as leaders of the people. They were so proud and self-confident in their boasted superiority that they could not be molded to sympathize with their fellow men and to become colaborers with the humble Man of Nazareth. . . . The leading Reformers were men from humble life. . . . It is God's plan to employ humble instruments to accomplish great results" (*The Great Controversy,* p. 171).

key text

"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)

what do you think?

***Circle* the names of the following individuals that you think** are prideful. Discuss with your friends how you think their pride is shown.

- Regan mocks anyone who can't understand algebra as well as he can.
- Elizabeth wants everything in her life to be perfect—and complains when nothing goes right.
- Rafael refuses to apply himself in school, ignoring advice from his parents, teachers, and pastor.
- Natalie ignores her friends whenever there is something she thinks is more fun or important.
- Your coach ignores the feedback that you and your teammates try to give him.
- Rachael displays her straight-A report card on the refrigerator door.
- Carly is always showing off her latest electronic gadget.

did you know?

Ulrich Zwingli enjoyed music and played many instruments, including the violin, harp, flute, dulcimer, and hunting horn. He would entertain the kids in his congregation on his lute and was so well-known for his playing that his enemies mocked him as "the evangelical lute-player and fifer." Although Zwingli's hymns were not intended for music to be used in worship services, they were published in some sixteenth-century hymnals.[1]

INTO THE STORY

"For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: 'I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.'"

(Isaiah 57:15, NIV)

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

(Isaiah 41:10, NIV)

"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)



OUT OF THE STORY

Write a paraphrase of the Bible verses from *Into the Story* and combine the key points into one verse:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Read Proverbs 16:5, 18, 19; Proverbs 27:2; and Proverbs 29:23. What is the result of pride in your life? Do these texts point out pride in your life?

Fill in the blank and discover God's strategy on how to be humble and happy:

1. Confess my _____

Proverbs 28:13 (NIV): "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

2. Be honest in my _____

Romans 12:3 (NIV): "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you."

3. Recognize the source of _____

1 Corinthians 4:7 (TLB): "What are you so puffed up about? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why act as though you are so great, and as though you have accomplished something on your own?"

4. Serve others like _____

Philippians 2:3-5 (NIV): "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. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."

5. Allow God to _____

James 4:10 (TLB): "Then when you realize your worthlessness before the Lord, he will lift you up, encourage and help you."

punch lines

"Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate" **(Psalm 101:5, NIV).**

"The Lord preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full" **(Psalm 31:23, NIV).**

"The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished" **(Proverbs 16:5, NIV).**

"Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall" **(Proverbs 16:18, NIV).**

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" **(Philippians 2:5, KJV).**

further insight

"The glory will not be given to men, but to Him who works through them to will and to do of His own good pleasure."

—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy,* p. 171

Sabbath

Read Proverbs 16:5.

Rank the people in the *What Do You Think?* section. Explain your reasoning behind your ranking.

Sunday

Review the texts from *Into the Story*. Circle the text that you think is . . .

the easiest to understand:
Isaiah 57:15 James 4:6 Isaiah 41:10

the most comforting:
Isaiah 57:15 James 4:6 Isaiah 41:10

the strongest indictment against pride:
Isaiah 57:15 James 4:6 Isaiah 41:10

Review the steps to a humble and happy life in *Out of the Story*.

_____

Would you suggest any other steps? If so, what?

_____

Which step is the hardest for you to take? Why?

_____

Monday

Read James 4:6-10.

Memorize the *Key Text* (James 4:6). Compare it to James 4:10. How does the following quote from E. G. White illuminate these two verses in James 4? "True humility will lead a man to exalt Christ and the truth, and to realize his utter dependence upon the God of truth" (*Lift Him Up,* p. 282).

_____

Tuesday

Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-29.

Compare and contrast Ellen White's statement in the *Flashlight* section with other statements she makes in chapters 9 and 10 in *The Great Controversy*.

Ellen White quoting Martin Luther: "May God of His mercy preserve me from a church in which there are none but saints. I desire to dwell with the humble, the feeble, the sick, who know and feel their sins, and who groan and cry continually to God from the bottom of their hearts to obtain His consolation and support" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 191).

"The contrast between the disciples of the gospel and the upholders of popish superstition was no less manifest in the ranks of scholars than among the common people. 'Opposed to the old champions of the hierarchy, who had neglected the study of languages and the cultivation of literature, . . . were generous-minded youth, devoted to study, investigating Scripture, and familiarizing themselves with the masterpieces of antiquity. Possessing an active mind, an elevated soul, and intrepid heart, these young men soon acquired such knowledge that for a long period none could compete with them. . . . Accordingly, when these youthful defenders of the Reformation met the Romish doctors in any assembly, they attacked them with such ease and confidence that these ignorant men hesitated, became embarrassed, and fell into a contempt merited in the eyes of all'" (*The Great Controversy*, pp. 195, 196).

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_____

Wednesday

Read Psalm 31:23.

List the advantages of living with a humble spirit next to the disadvantages of living with a prideful spirit.

Advantages of humility	Disadvantages of pride
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Thursday

Read Philippians 2:5.

Reflect on this suggestion from Pastor Dwight Nelson: "Seek to become low and weak and nothing. Jump at the opportunity to serve someone else. You be the one to stop and help the driver with the flat tire. You give up your place in that checkout line for that impatient soul farther back. You be the one to miss your plane because the stranger at the gate is obviously sick and needs someone to get her to help. Do yourself what in the past you have delegated purely as a sign of your authority over a subordinate."[2]

Ask yourself: How can God create in me a spirit of humility?

_____

Friday

Read Mark 12:30, 31.

Dwight Nelson writes: "The cross of Jesus is proof that humility is the shining pinnacle of God's character!"[3] Do you agree or disagree? Why? How can you reflect the humility of God's character?

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[1] Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huldrych_Zwingli.
[2] Dwight K. Nelson, *The Eleventh Commandment* (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press, 2001), pp. 34, 35.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 35.

this week's reading*

The Great Controversy (or *Love Under Fire),* chapters 9, 10.

**Love Under Fire* is a special adaptation of *The Great Controversy*, created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at http://www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.