

Small Group Questions -- 6 Building Blocks #2 – Humility

1. **Read James 4:6** – explain what this verse is saying. Do you see examples around you where you wonder if “God is blocking” people?
2. **Review the story of King Zedekiah** -- Mike noted the cycle of good kings and bad kings in the Bible and the prophets who came along to keep people on track – they tried so hard but their words were not well received. Read the story of Zedekiah, the last king of Judah to reign in the southern kingdom. **2 Chronicles 26:11-14. Describe what kind of king Zedekiah is.**

Jeremiah the prophet came and warned Zedekiah that if he didn't turn around, Judah would lose its kingdom, just as Israel already had but Zedekiah doesn't soften his heart. In fact, Zedekiah got sick of listening to Jeremiah and did this to him:
Jeremiah 38:6

Jeremiah again warns Zedekiah: **Jeremiah 38:17-18**

Judah and its king persist in prideful sin: **2 Chronicles 36:14-16**

God is warning Zedekiah and saying, “following my instructions is the right way” but Zedekiah in his own pride rebels against King Nebuchadnezzar, which is the same as rebelling against God.

So finally this happens: **Jeremiah 52:4-5**

Zedekiah gets desperate, a severe famine hits the city. He calls Jeremiah to ask God to help them. Jeremiah tells the king to surrender to the Babylonians – all those who would surrender would escape with their lives. But Zedekiah again refuses to listen to God. He gathers the army to make a midnight escape but things don't go as planned. The army ends up abandoning Zedekiah and the worst happens, he is captured by the Babylonians as he was escaping. Zedekiah's sons and officials are killed before his eyes. They poke out Zedekiah's eyes and put him in prison in Babylon until he died.

And all this happened after warning after warning. It could have had a different ending.

3. Discuss this point: “Rebellion always isolates us but never insulates us = It all catches up.” What does this mean. Have you experienced this?
4. Think of “rebel” moments in your life. What has it taken to get your attention? Have you had the wind knocked out of you?
5. In what way does pride lead to stupid decisions?
6. Mike noted that both King David and Zedekiah were confronted by prophets about their pride, sin and rebellion. Zedekiah turned away from God and put his trust in his own strength: his army. What did David do?

Psalm 51:1
Psalm 51:17
Psalm 51:10

7. Has the building block of humility and confession been important or active in your life? How does confession help combat pride?
8. Confession need not be a lengthy or detailed process, just an honest one and to the point. Today we can pause and think about the sin of pride and confess just that one thing to each other. Break off into 2, 3 or 4 people. **One person can confess and one person can respond.** Do this with each person.

No one should feel that they must do this, just simply say pass if you would rather not participate.

As a group take a minute to pause and individually think about pride that is active in your own life. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you. Then walk through confession with one another.

Confessor: Heavenly Father I confess pride as my sin. I repent and ask you to forgive me.”

Minister: (Name of person who confessed), God's Word promises when you confess your sin, He is faithful and just to forgive you of your sin and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. So in Jesus' Name, I declare that you are forgiven.”