



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION (Group leaders pick 4-5 questions to discuss as time permits)

In your opinion, what is the worst disease mankind has ever seen? In your opinion, what is the worst spiritual disease?

Who's the proudest person (negative sense) that you've ever known? What did you see in them that makes you say they were proud?

List as many "self-_____" (fill in the blank) as you can that describe characteristics of pride. Which ones are most challenging for you?

In what ways can pride disguise itself?

What do you do when you can't sleep? Read Esther 6:1-3. What do you think was giving Xerxes insomnia?

Read Esther 6 in sections and have the group make their own observations from the narrative.

Read Obadiah 3. In what ways does pride deceive people?

Read Ps 8:9, 104:1 & 111:10. In what ways does our view of God affect pride?

Read 1Cor 13:4-8. In your opinion, how does love affect pride in us?

In what ways does the gospel affect pride? See Gal 2:20, 1John 4:10, 19. What other lessons for Christians are in chapter 6?



Guide – ESTHER: What pride will do to you

Esther is beautiful, wise, and gutsy. Her beauty will prove irresistible to the most powerful king in the world. With wisdom she will outmaneuver a cunning manipulator. With guts, she will take her place in history and save the Hebrew people from sure annihilation.

OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES

Esther 6: What pride will do to you

Pride is a terrible spiritual disease because:

- 1. It impairs thinking**
- 2. It deteriorates vision**
- 3. It masks symptoms**
- 4. It's infection rate is 100%**
- 5. It mutates quickly**

Pride is like cancer – CS Lewis

- 1. Surgically remove pride by acknowledging God's sovereignty.**
Ex 15:11; Ps 8:9, 104:1, 111:10

As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.

—C.S. Lewis

- 2. Radiate pride with the gospel.**
1Ti 1:15; Gal 2:20;
- 3. Eradicate remaining pride cells with love**
1Jo 4:10, 19; 1Cor 13:4-8