

# WWJ U: Spiritual Pride

Luke 18.9-14

## Key Points:

- Pride is where we find our value and our meaning in ourselves, in what we accomplish and how we compare to others rather than finding it where we're supposed to - in Christ. And it damages our relationship with God and others.
- The Pharisee's prayer in v.11-12 reveals his pride - instead of seeing himself and these good things as a gift from God he started viewing himself as the gift to God. Pride often looks like **comparison** (lifting ourselves up by pushing others down), **fault-finding** (it's easier to focus on others' faults than our own), **attention seeking** (caring more about what people think than God), **"I could never..."** (not believing what God says about us/ what He's given us). Spiritual Pride always starts with 'Me' but **when we're full of ourselves there's no room for God.**
- Jesus offers us a better way - the tax collector's prayer (v.13) recognises that if God doesn't intervene in his story, he is hopeless. **When we empty ourselves, we're in the perfect position to be filled up by God's grace AND to be used by God.** One way to empty ourselves is to ask the question of ourselves: *"Is this about my glory, or God's?"*

## Questions:

**Conversation Starter** - Get the group involved with a question everyone can answer

1. What life accomplishments, relationships, and things are you most proud of?
2. What is your external response when someone gives you a compliment? What happens internally?

**Start thinking** - Get the group thinking around the subject,

3. How would you define the term "spiritual pride"?
4. Read Luke 18:9-12. What's wrong with the Pharisee's logic? Do you ever do this?

**Start sharing** - Choose a question to create openness

5. Talk about a time when you were a little too confident and were humbled by a situation.
6. How do you, personally, struggle with pride?
7. How do you see God peeling back pride in your life?

**Start praying** - Write a short prayer that gets to the heart of 'so what' in your sermon.

8. God, we want to be emptied of ourselves so we can be filled with Your grace—so we can do the work You have for us. We don't want to make a name for ourselves, we want to lift up Your name. And in Your name we agree. Amen!

**Start doing** - draw out some steps to do (either in the meeting or this week)

9. Make a simple list of everything great in your life. Then, write next to each item how God made it possible.
10. Ask someone you trust to be honest with you about any places they see pride in you.