

TEACHER'S LESSON # 4

A MAN OF HUMILITY


Lesson Summary: We know that David was a humble leader because he was not spoiled by honor, he freely confessed his weaknesses, and he gave God the glory for what he accomplished. The Bible describes humility as a lowly view of self, an exalted view of God, and submission to God's will. David's humility contributed to his greatness as a leader.

Big Idea: We need to be humble leaders.

THE LESSON


Humility In David's Life

Teacher's Note: Have your class turn to page 17 as you teach the following material.

 How do we know that David was humble? We learned that David was a shepherd—a lowly occupation. What is remarkable about this shepherd is that even after he was greatly honored, he always went back to shepherding.

HONOR DID NOT SPOIL HIM

He Was Anointed As The Future King Of Israel. Samuel anointed David King of Israel, but what did David do after such a life-changing event (**1 Sam. 16:19**)? Some time later Saul sent for David and found him right back at his old job—shepherding the sheep! The anointing oil didn't spoil David! (*See "David's Anointing."*) In spite of the great significance of his anointing, David went back to the fields to care for his sheep with the holy anointing oil still upon his head!

 If Samuel had anointed you, what would you be tempted to do? How would you be tempted to act?

He Played The Harp Before Saul. We don't know how long David stayed at the palace (**1 Sam. 16:22-23**), but **1 Samuel 17:15** tells us that when David's stay with Saul ended, he went back to the fields!

David might be the future king, and he might be a gifted musician, but he was not above doing the lowliest, dirtiest job in all Israel! In fact, this humble quality was one of the reasons God chose David (**Psalms 78:70-72**). A leader should never be above scrubbing the bathroom at work or scrubbing the floors at home! True leaders are servants, and they never lose that servant's heart, no matter how great their title.

DAVID FREELY ADMITTED HIS SHORTCOMINGS AND SINS



Can a leader be too honest about his faults? If so, how?

David Was Honest About His Shortcomings. Humility and honesty are twins. Where you see one, you see the other. *Humility is being honest about yourself!*

David never thought of himself as more than he really was. When preparing to fight Goliath, Saul tried to make him wear his own armor. But David readily admitted, *“I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them”* (1 Samuel 17:39). David was a young man, and Saul was taller than anyone else in Israel. Most of us would have determined to wear the armor rather than admit we weren’t able. There is no pride in David; however, so he can be perfectly honest!

Leaders must know their strengths and weaknesses. David’s strength was the Lord, his weakness was himself, and he knew both very well. Insecure and proud people are often blind to their own weaknesses.

Some five to ten years later, David fled from Saul’s wrath. Twice during that time, he came face to face with Saul. The first time he called himself “a dead dog” and “a flea” (1 Samuel 24:14). The second time he called himself a “flea” and “a partridge in the mountains” (1 Samuel 26:20). However, when David fought Goliath, the giant was enraged that David came to him carrying only a staff. He bellowed, *“Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?”* (1 Samuel 17:43). David had no problem thinking of himself as nothing. Goliath, however, lost his head because of pride!

David Was Honest About His Social Standing. In 2 Samuel 7 God promised David that his children and descendants would always sit on the throne of Israel. That God would do this for David overwhelmed him. He replied in verse 18: *“Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?”*

Earlier, when Saul offered to let David marry his daughter, David replied, *“Who am I? And what is my life, or my father’s family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?”* (1 Samuel 18:18). In verse 23 he added, *“...I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed.”*



David never tried to act like more than he was. In what situations are you tempted to put on a front, to appear different than you really are?

Although people honored him, women sang of his greatness, and thousands voluntarily followed him into battle, David never forgot that he was just a shepherd boy that God had, for some amazing reason, chosen to use!

David Was Honest About His Sin. David was not perfect. Like us, he fell not once, but many times to the temptations of sin. He committed adultery, he murdered Uriah, he failed miserably with his sons, his deception led to a priest and his family being murdered, he gave up on God’s promise to make him king,

and he sinned in numbering the children of Israel. That David sinned should not surprise us. After all, he was human like us. What is remarkable about David is his *reaction* to his sin.



What was David's response to his sin?

1. When faced with it, he quickly and readily admitted his guilt (**2 Samuel 12:13; 24:10, 17**).
2. He grieved over his sin and begged God for forgiveness (**Psalm 51**).
3. He continued serving the Lord (**Proverbs 24:16**).

DAVID GAVE GOD GLORY FOR EVERY VICTORY IN HIS LIFE

When David became king of all Israel, he wrote **2 Samuel 22** as a song of praise to the Lord. Look at verses **1-3, 7-10; 18; 30-33; 50-51**. Though the entire psalm is a praise to God for His power, these verses especially reveal David's conviction that his victories were not his, but God's! It was God that allowed him to "*run through a troop,*" to "*leap over a wall,*" and who "*teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.*"

That is the attitude of the humble. They realize that it is God, not themselves, that is the source of any success they may have.

Humility In The Bible

Teacher's Note: This material is on page 18 of the student manual.

David's humility is part of what made him a great leader. Let's understand what humility really is. How does the Bible describe humility? (**See the chart in the student book.**) Biblical humility is an attitude based on four ingredients.

An Exalted View Of God. David's exalted view of God kept him from pride. **Psalm 10**, which most Bible scholars think was written by David, compares the proud man to the humble man. **Verses 1-11** reveal the characteristics of the proud, and **verses 12-18** reveal the characteristics of the humble. Later in this lesson you will evaluate yourselves based on this psalm.

A Lowly View Of Self. A high view of God produces a low view of self. We have already seen David's humility in his confession of sin, his working with the lowly sheep even after Samuel anointed him as the future king of Israel, and in his psalms.

Submission To God's Will. Humility is also seen in our submission to God's will. Proud men "*do not seek after God*" (**Psalm 10:4**). They are determined to have their own way. No one will tell them what to do.

Obedience To God's Word. Not only do the humble submit readily to God's will and plan for their lives, but they also submit to God's Word. Their one goal in life is to obey the written Word.

? How can we tell whether we have these four attitudes? By the way we serve the Lord. *(See the four biblical characters on pages 18-19 of the student book.)*

THE APPLICATION

David, the humble shepherd of Israel, is well qualified to speak to us about humility. In **Psalm 10** he describes the proud man and the humble man. Which qualities of these two men are in your life?

Teacher's Note: *(See "Humility In Our Lives.")* Have the class turn to **Psalm 10** and evaluate their hearts in light of pride and humility. You may want to take each statement separately, read the verse, comment, and then let the students decide if it applies to them.

Conclude by having the students silently pray over their list, confessing those areas of pride they have seen.

Quiz Coverage

These are the sections that the class must know in order to be prepared for the quiz.

- Humility In David's Life
- Humility In The Bible

Quiz Answers

1. (1) An exalted view of God
(2) A lowly view of self
(3) Submission to God's will
(4) Obedience to God's Word
2. Spoil, honest, leader, leader
3. (1) Focus on submission
(2) Concerned with gain
(3) Uses others
(4) Strives to follow the Lord

LESSON 4 QUIZ — A MAN OF HUMILITY

NAME _____ ISC # _____ DATE _____

CHURCH/CITY _____

LEVEL _____ SCORE _____ (8 points Level One; 12 points Level Two)

Level One And Level Two

(4) 1. List the four basic ingredients upon which biblical humility is based.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(4) 2. Fill in the blanks in the statements below.

Honor did not _____ David. Humility is being _____ about oneself. One may be a _____ without humility, but you may never be a godly _____ without humility.

Level Two Only

(4) 3. Fill in the blanks in the chart explaining the two views of leadership.

World's View	God's View
Focus on power	
	Concerned with giving
	Serves others
Strives to lead men	