



Word Count – Week 3

Boasting - Discussion & Reflection Guide

Questions and Prompts:

- **Can you remember a time when you were humbled? What details do you remember?** Try to briefly describe an embarrassing or sobering situation that reminded you to not take yourself too seriously.
- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, taking Communion, the message and witnessing baptisms? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- During this series, we have been reminded "we are accountable for all of our words." **How do you react to this? Do you feel accountable for every word you say?**
- **Read 2 Corinthians 12:5-10.** Have someone read it out loud if you're in a group. This is part of a letter to a church written by the apostle Paul. While he could brag or boast about his own accomplishments, he says something very different.
 - Is there a verse or phrase that stands out to you?
 - **Is there any difficult or weakness in your life that you want to thank God for?**
- In the message, Eddie shared some symptoms of pride to watch out for:
 - when I take a lot of things personally
 - when I can't tolerate disagreement
 - when my desires must take priority
 - when I assume this message is for someone else**Pause and do a quick self-reflection. Do you notice any symptoms in yourself? If you're willing, share an example of how this shows up for you.**
- **Read Philippians 2:3-8.** Have someone read it out loud if you're in a group. This is another letter from Paul. He instructs the believers in Jesus to live together in a way that represents Jesus' example.
 - Is there a verse or phrase that stands out to you?
 - **How do you want to follow the example of Jesus?**
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Message Main Points & Scripture:

- **there are no throwaway words**
- Proverbs 18:21 – “The tongue can bring death or life.”
- Proverbs 27:1 – “Don't brag about tomorrow, since you don't know what the day will bring.”
- **“I am disappointed with myself.”**
- 1 Timothy 1:15 – “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – and I am the worst of them all.”
- Proverbs 27:2 – “Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.”
- Jeremiah 9:23–24 – “Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom... but those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love...”
- **it is always less painful to be humble than to be humbled**
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 – “I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.”
- **when I take a lot of things personally**
- Ecclesiastes 7:5 – “Better to be criticized by a wise person than to be praised by a fool.”
- Isaiah 53:7 – “He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.”
- **when I can't tolerate disagreement**
- Proverbs 15:1-2 – “A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare. The tongue of the wise makes knowledge appealing...”
- Proverbs 13:10 – “Pride leads to conflict.”
- **when my desires must take priority**
- Philippians 2:3 – “Don't be selfish. Don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges. He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.”
- **when I assume this message is for someone else**
- James 1:22 – “Don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.”