



Helping Kids Let Go of Pride God's Way

When You Try to Take God's Place

Raising Christ-Centered Kids | Faith | Pride

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“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6, *ESV*)

Key Takeaway

Pride says, “I can do it alone.” Humility says, “God, I need You.”

The Biblical Meaning of Pride

Pride is one of the first cracks in the human heart. It began in the garden when Adam and Eve reached for what looked good and wise in their own eyes, forgetting that wisdom begins with trusting God (Genesis 3; Proverbs 9:10). Pride is not always loud or boastful. It's the quiet turning inward that says, “I'll decide what's best for me.” Scripture shows that pride blinds us to God's goodness and builds walls where love and grace should flow (Proverbs 16:18; Romans 12:3).

But God gives us humility to heal a proud heart. The word humility comes from humus, meaning “ground.” To be humble is to be grounded in the truth that our lives are held in God's hands. Humility doesn't mean thinking less of ourselves; it means remembering who we are before God: created, loved, and dependent on His grace (Micah 6:8). When we walk humbly, we live in reality, not trapped inside our own importance, but free to see others and trust God's strength more than our own.

Understanding How to Let Go of Pride

Letting go of pride isn't easy. It shows up when we want to be right, when we hide mistakes, or when we resist correction. Often, pride is born from fear. The fear of being wrong, weak, or unseen. But God calls us to something far better. He invites us to rest in His care instead of trying to control everything ourselves.

Jesus told a story about two men who went to pray. One was a Pharisee who listed all the good things he'd done, and the other a humble tax collector who said, “God, be merciful to me, a



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sinner.” (Luke 18:9–14) The proud man trusted in his own goodness; the humble man trusted in God’s mercy. Jesus said the humble man went home right with God. Pride tries to lift us up, but humility bows low and lets God lift us.

That same truth shapes how we guide our children. Letting go doesn’t mean giving up; it means giving in to God’s love and wisdom. We teach humility when we admit we’re wrong, when we say sorry first, or when we choose to listen instead of defending ourselves. When kids live grounded in God’s truth, their hearts grow steady and strong.

Practical Steps: Letting Go of Pride

1. **Pause and Pray** — When you or your child feels the need to be “right,” stop and ask, “God, what would a humble heart do right now?”
2. **Choose the Lower Place** — Let your child practice humility in small ways: go last in line, offer the better seat, share a win with a teammate. Small choices plant deep roots.
3. **Admit Mistakes Quickly** — Saying “I was wrong” keeps pride from getting stuck in your heart and teaches your child that honesty brings peace.
4. **Celebrate Others** — Point out and praise someone else’s effort or kindness. Gratitude loosens pride’s grip and makes humility visible.
5. **Stay Grounded in God’s Truth** — When life feels uncertain, remind your child: being humble isn’t being weak—it’s standing firm on God’s strength instead of your own.

Scripture for Parents and Kids

- “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6, *ESV*)
- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5, *ESV*)
- “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3, *ESV*)

Encouragement for Parents

Pride often hides behind the fear of not being enough, of losing control, or of being overlooked. That same fear can live quietly in our children, too. Remind them that they don’t have to be perfect to be loved. God’s grace meets us where we fall short and gives us courage to stand again. Every time you choose humility over control, listening instead of lecturing, or patience instead of pride, you show your child that real strength comes from surrender. Pride shrinks the heart, but humility expands it for peace, patience, and joy to grow. When we live grounded in God’s truth, our homes become places where God’s grace flows into us and back out to others.

CTMP Corner: Kingdom Kids in Action

- **Connect:** Share a time you both struggled with pride and how God helped you let go.
- **Teach:** Read the story of Peter walking on water (Matthew 14:22–33). Talk about how fear made Peter look inward instead of keeping his eyes on Jesus.
- **Model:** Show humility by admitting when you’re wrong and asking for forgiveness.
- **Pray:** “Lord, help us stay humble and grounded in You. Teach us to let go of pride and trust Your strength instead of our own.”