

# BATTLE READY

STANDING FIRM IN JESUS' STRENGTH

## HomeGroup **LEADER** Discussion Questions

Week 2: Mar 13th-19th [Online & Erie Campus]

Week 3: Mar 21st [Thornton Campus]

Week 4: Mar 28th [Boulder Campus]

**PLEASE VISIT <https://calvarybible.com/battleready/> IF YOUR HOMEGROUP HAS BOTH IN-PERSON SERVICE ATTENDERS AND OTHERS WHO MEET ONLINE. THIS SITE WILL SHOW YOU THE SERIES SCHEDULE FOR EACH CAMPUS THESE NEXT 3 WEEKS. YOU MAY NEED TO REVIEW TWO DIFFERENT SETS OF SERMON QUESTIONS AND PICK THE BEST FROM EACH.**

“Step aside, people. I’ve got this.” Pride can be a poison to our lives. An overinflated ego might lead us to make a fool of ourselves. An overconfident zeal might result in spectacular failure. Pride’s greatest danger, though, is far greater than potential embarrassment. No, the threat of pride is when it incites us to opt out of dependance on God. Prideful self-sufficiency isolates us and places us squarely in the devil’s playground. Being battle-ready, then, means being aware of pride’s lurking threat to our soul.

Main Texts: Ezekiel 28:1-19; Ephesians 6:10-20 and other various texts

### CONNECT

1. Sometimes it’s good to simply check-in with each other. Use the “HEARTS” acronym below to describe where you’re at emotionally and then explain your answer:

**Happy | Excited | Angry | Rested | Tired | Sad**

2. What did you find most significant or confusing in this week’s sermon?

### LEARN

3. How would you explain what *pride* is from how the Bible describes it? If you’re able, try to point out specific verses to support your answer.

**We could think of pride as arrogance or conceit. It may be difficult for those who are less familiar with Scripture to know where examples might be found. Here are some ideas: Nebuchadnezzar’s boasting in Daniel 4:29-30, Haman’s arrogance in Esther 6:6, and Herod’s boasting in Acts 12:22-23. There are others that could be pointed out as well, such as Thomas’ reference to Ezekiel 27-28.**

4. One danger of pride that Thomas emphasized is that it isolates us, both from God and from Christian community. Why is this so dangerous?

This should be easy to answer, but isolation makes us especially vulnerable to Satan's attacks (think of a lone sheep standing in a field). Isolation shuts us off from the encouragement of others, the strength of others, and insulates us from the grace that God pours out into His church.

5. John Stott said, "Pride is more than the first of the seven deadly sins; it is itself the essence of all sin." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

Many have seen pride as at the core of all sin (i.e., rebellion against God). Pride tells us that God's instruction about right and wrong, good and evil, isn't necessary or even true. We can figure it out on our own, according to our own logic and sheer brilliance. That's the basis for a world of sin and evil!

6. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Where is humility—the antidote to pride—implied or imbedded in the armor of God?

We are to be strong *in the Lord* and in the strength *of his might*. Furthermore, it is the armor *of God*, not our own. The goal of it all is *to stand*, or resist, the devil. We aren't called to knock Satan out, but to resist him. Only God has the power to defeat Satan, which was accomplished through the cross and the empty tomb.

#### APPLY

7. What has your experience with pride been like? Have you seen it impact your life somehow?

This is a question that requires vulnerability. It could be a good question to answer first, which may in-turn encourage others to share.

8. What is the difference between good and bad pride? Is it always wrong to boast?

In short, pride is not always bad. Pride (or boasting) is spoken of in a positive light in passages like 2 Corinthians 5:12 and 7:14 and Galatians 6:4. It's important to read these in context to understand what form of pride or object of our pride is good. Mostly, though, the Bible does speak of pride in a negative sense. Examples include Proverbs 11:2 and 16:18.

9. Thomas mentioned how pride elevates us above accountability and draws us into entitlement. How does lack of accountability set us up for disaster? Can you think of any biblical or recent examples? How does entitlement provoke us to sin?

Pride makes us feel self-sufficient and more capable than we are. It distorts our perspective so that we think others (including God) owe us a certain inflated level of reward or recognition. We are above accountability to others. Sadly, there are too many examples of this kind of pride in churches and other Christian organizations! Entitlement can provoke us to sin as a justification for compromise. "I work so hard and deserve this \_\_\_\_\_" (fill in the blank...promotion by any means, affair, lifestyle that I can't afford, etc.).

#### GOING DEEPER (a.k.a., Extra Credit!)

At Calvary, we seek to be a people pursuing holiness—a value of a life lived with Christ. It's also a value that grows out of the soil of humility. One of the ways we grow in pursuing holiness is having someone who has permission to ask us tough questions or give us insights about ourselves that we might otherwise be blind to.

This won't be easy, but prayerfully think about a trusted person in your life who knows you well enough so that you could ask them about their experience of your pride. Do they see a prideful attitude or spirit within you? If so, ask them to be as specific as possible about how and when it shows up. Share with the group who that trusted individual could be and then take the (BOLD!) step to ask!