

## AFTER THE MOUNTAIN TOP

### The Story:

### The Danger Zones:

- ▶ Over-reliance on **Talent** and **Abilities**  
Luke 9:37-41, Luke 9:1-2, Mark 9:28-29, Matthew 17:20
- ▶ Forgetting the **Spiritual** Battle is a **REAL** Battle  
Luke 9:42-43
- ▶ The “**Center of the Universe**” Syndrome  
Luke 9:42-56

### Navigating The Danger Zones:

- ▶ The closer we get to Jesus,  
the more his **power** and **life** flows through us
- ▶ We have a great **God**,  
but we'll still have great **problems**
- ▶ Jesus doesn't kill our ambition,  
he **refocuses it**
- ▶ Don't try to be the best **“you”** that you can be;  
try to be the best **imitation of Christ** you can be

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 13, 2011

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This week is the final meeting of our Winter Quarter. (*Note: College groups are on a different schedule.*) We'll take a two-week break and the nine-week Spring Quarter will begin April 3 and run through June 3.

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Can you think of any ways that you see pride, arrogance or an untamed ego showing up in the world around you?

What is the impact on relationships, work effectiveness or ministry growth from this display of pride?

2. Humility is incredibly important if we're going to deal with our self-focus and self-reliance. One definition of humility is having an accurate view of ourselves - including our strengths, weaknesses and limitations. Is there one person who has modeled this sort of humility for you? If so, how did you see humility demonstrated in their life?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Pride is an all too common struggle for most of us. Author C.S. Lewis described pride as "the essential vice, the utmost evil. ...Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." That's why the Bible has a lot to say about pride and arrogance. Jot down your observations about pride from the following verses.

### Proverbs 11:2

*When pride comes, then comes disgrace,  
but with humility comes wisdom. [NIV]*

### Proverbs 13:10

*Pride only breeds quarrels,  
but wisdom is found in those who take advice. [NIV]*

### Proverbs 16:18

*Pride goes before destruction,  
a haughty spirit before a fall. [NIV]*

How could Romans 12:3 help us to counteract pride in our lives?

### **Romans 12:3**

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. [NIV]*

Pride has a way of attaching itself to certain areas of our lives like our image, possessions, strengths and position. In what ways have you dealt with pride in these or other areas of your life?

2. We heard this weekend how easy it is for us to rely on our talents and abilities rather than God's help. King Asa is someone who should have known better than to fall into the trap of self-reliance. What do you learn about self-reliance and its consequences from 2 Chronicles 16:1-12?

### **2 Chronicles 16:1-12**

*In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Asa king of Judah.*

*[2] Asa then took the silver and gold out of the treasuries of the Lord's temple and of his own palace and sent it to Ben-Hadad king of Aram, who was ruling in Damascus. [3] "Let there be a treaty between me and you," he said, "as there was between my father and your father. See, I am sending you silver and gold. Now break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so he will withdraw from me."*

*[4] Ben-Hadad agreed with King Asa and sent the commanders of his forces against the towns of Israel. They conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel Maim and all the store cities of Naphtali. [5] When Baasha heard this, he stopped building Ramah and abandoned his work. [6] Then King Asa brought all the men of Judah, and they carried away from Ramah the stones and timber Baasha had been using. With them he built up Geba and Mizpah.*

*[7] At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him: "Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand. [8] Were not the Cushites and Libyans a mighty army with great numbers of chariots and horsemen? Yet when you relied on the Lord, he delivered them into your hand. [9] For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war."*

*[10] Asa was angry with the seer because of this; he was so enraged that he put him in prison. At the same time Asa brutally oppressed some of the people.*

*[11] The events of Asa's reign, from beginning to end, are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. [12] In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the Lord, but only from the physicians. [NIV]*

Where in your life do you find it hardest to rely on God's provision or plan?

3. Mike told us that we shouldn't "try to be the best 'you' that you can be; try to be the best imitation of Christ you can be." We don't become like Christ in a day, it's a lifelong process. Romans 8:29 talks about us being "conformed to the likeness of his (God's) Son." What insights do you see in each of these verses to help us in becoming more like Jesus?

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. [NIV]*

**John 15:4-5**

*Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

*[5] "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. [NIV]*

**Matthew 11:28-30**

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." [NIV]*

Which of these verses is most motivational to you in your journey to become more like Christ?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or study that you'd like prayer for?

### **Communion Option**

One key motivation to be "Christ-like" is recognizing God's ultimate work in our life and His love for us is exhibited through the sacrifice he made on the Cross. Communion is one way we remind ourselves of all that he has done and all he's calling us to become. This week you may conclude Growth Group by taking Communion together. To prepare for this, take a moment to read Psalm 103:8-14 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 reflecting on the significance of Christ's forgiveness of our sins.

#### **Psalm 103:8-14**

*The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
[9] He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
[10] he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.  
[11] For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
[12] as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.  
[13] As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;  
[14] for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust. [NIV]*

#### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

*For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26] For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. [NIV]*

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### **Prayer Requests:**

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