



## Pride

**Purpose:** Challenge the teens to what kind of person they want to be: prideful or humble.

**Supplies:** Bibles

**Total Time:** 40-50 minutes

### ACTIVITY

#### Sit Down If (10-15 minutes)

*Have the entire group stand. Tell them to sit down when the statement characterizes them. Once seated, they must remain seated.*

*Encourage them to be honest. If you have trouble because most are not sitting down, give them general characteristics ("Sit down if you are under 15, if you have on white socks, if you are in love," etc.).*

#### Sit Down Mixer Number 1

Sit down if:

You haven't used deodorant in a week ... two days.

You have never worn the same socks two days in a row.

You sing in the shower. .

Your belly button is an outie.

You haven't taken a shower in a week.

#### Sit Down Mixer Number 2

Sit down if:

Your nose is crooked.

You believe each person should pay expenses on the first date.

You still suck your thumb.

Your socks don't match.

You are ticklish.

You weigh less than 100 pounds.

Your nose is running and you don't have a handkerchief.

You're going steady but you wish you weren't.

You are good-looking but not conceited.

### Sit Down Mixer Number 3

Sit down if:

You have ever eaten snails.

You are cross-eyed.

Your mother still dresses you.

You use Speed Stick deodorant.

You have never lied to your mother.

You have a hole in your sock.

Your zipper is open.

You got a traffic ticket lately.

You are on a diet.

You have never stolen a street marker.

You have a false tooth.

You are really good looking.

## **LARGE GROUP**

(15-20 minutes)

Share Story:

*On September 3, 1989, Varig Airlines Flight 254 was at Brazil's Maraba Airport preparing for takeoff. Under normal circumstances the hop to nearby Belém would only take 48 minutes. Captain César Garcez consulted a computer-generated flight plan and read the number 0270 which corresponded to the magnetic heading from Maraba to Belém. But Garcez inadvertently dialed 270 into the Horizontal Situation Indicator. Minutes later, flight 254 took off and climbed to an altitude of 29,000 feet. Instead of heading northeast toward the Brazilian coastline and the city of Belém, the plane turned west and headed straight toward the Amazon forest.*

*Captain Garcez sensed something was wrong. At this point in the flight plan he expected to be able to have visual contact with the Belém airport. Frustrated, the captain executed a 180-degree turn, not recognizing the absurdity of his due west/due east course. Having been notified by the flight attendants that the passengers were wondering what was happening, Garcez lied. He announced there was a power failure at the Belém airport, and that he would circle the area waiting for the power to be restored.*

*Despite not knowing where he was, Captain Garcez informed the Varig flight coordinator on the ground he estimated the plane would be landing in Belém in five minutes. He then ordered the flight attendants to serve a fresh round of drinks to the bewildered passengers.*

*At 7:39 p.m., when the flight was 68 minutes overdue, the first officer identified the problem and started to explain to the captain his mistake. But the captain dismissed his explanation. Re-*

*fusing to ask for help, he began counting the minutes until the plane would run out of fuel. All the while he searched the ground hoping to find an airport where he could land the plane.*

*About an hour later, out of fuel, Garcez made a remarkable crash-landing in total darkness in a dense tropical forest. The plane was 700 miles from the intended destination. Although all six of the crew survived, 13 of the 48 passengers were killed. Both Captain Garcez and the first officer had their commercial licenses revoked. They never flew again.*

Discussion Questions: *listen to the teen's responses.*

1. Describe a prideful person? Someone who is self absorbed, seeking out what only they want, and has problems seeing their own weakness/sin.
2. How did pride bring down the captain and first officer?
3. What in your life do you have a hard time taking criticism for?
4. When was the last time you said you were sorry?
5. Pride comes before the fall...what does that mean? Read Proverbs 16:18a.
6. When does confidence become pride? When a people are blinded by their sin, mistakes, and when they see that they do little or no wrong.
7. How do we get our talents or who gives us our talents? The Creator God in heaven has selected and given us our talents (Ephesians 4:11-12).
8. Has a talent of yours ever become a weakness? Explain why.

## **SMALL GROUP**

(10-20 minutes)

**What happens to prideful people?** Optional verses from Proverbs to look up to help answer this question: *use these verses to answer the following questions:*

- What does this verse mean?
- How have you seen this in life?
- What has been the outcome/result when you've seen this happen in life?
  - a. Pr.3:34 "He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble (NIV)
  - b. Pr.11:2 "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." (NIV)

- c. Pr.13:10 "Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice." (NIV)
- d. Pr.16:5 "The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished." (NIV)
- e. Pr.16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (NIV)
- f. Pr.16:19 "Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud." (NIV)
- g. Pr.18:12 "Before his downfall, a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor." (NIV)
- h. Pr.21:4 "Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!" (NIV)

## **WRAP UP**

Pride can get us into so much trouble. Sometimes you just have to back down and admit you were wrong. There is nothing wrong with swallowing your pride and being humble. Being humble has the result of the above verses. James 4:6, "God sets Himself against the proud, but He shows favor to the humble."

Humbleness requires admitting things to God...all things... What kinds of things do we need to admit to God? *Allow teens to share their thoughts.*

### **Admit to God:**

1. All Sins
2. All wrong doings
3. All bad behaviors
4. All wrong motives
5. All wrong & sinful thoughts, Etc.

### **Why admit those things?** *Allow teens time to share.*

1. First, it pleases God.
2. Second, you'll fall, creates quarrels and fights, and creates more problems for everyone.
3. And who enjoys being around a prideful person?

The world is going to tell you it's all about yourself. It's all about "getting mine." And looking out for number 1...me!!!!

It's ok to be concerned about what's good and best for you, but not when it becomes consuming and the focus in life is lost. Listen to God...He knows what's best for you!

**What do you want? Do you want to be a person full of pride OR a person that is humble and one with whom God is well pleased?** *Question for the teens to think about and not to verbally share.*

## CHALLENGE

Read the book of Hosea for the true accounts of Hosea's marriage to Gomer. Chapters 1-3 tell their story while the remaining chapters share the WHY to why God asked Hosea to marry Gomer. While you read the book, every time Israel is mentioned, mentally insert your name there. I think this will help you see how we are ALL just like Gomer by rejecting Hosea's deep love. The picture God has painted for us is just that...we reject what God has done for us, rejecting His intense and deep love, by pursuing other loves. Think on those things that are more important to you than God...and you might see you are no different than Gomer. BUT remember, God's love! He's so forgiving and desperately wants us to come back to Him.

## SALVATION VERSES

Read the following verses from Proverbs 3 times before the next meeting:

- a. Pr.3:34 "He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble (NIV)
- b. Pr.11:2 "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." (NIV)
- c. Pr.13:10 "Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice." (NIV)
- d. Pr.16:5 "The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished." (NIV)
- e. Pr.16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." (NIV)
- f. Pr.16:19 "Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud." (NIV)
- g. Pr.18:12 "Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor." (NIV)

h. Pr.21:4 “Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!” (NIV)