

Character Trait for February 1-5 is Humility

Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore, be imitators of God"

CHARACTER: qualities built into our lives that determine our responses, regardless of circumstances.

Humility: Acknowledging that my achievements are the result of the investment that others make in my life.

Weekly Verse: I Peter 5:5b "Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Bible Story: It is a lengthy chapter, but Daniel 4 tells the story of King Nebuchadnezzar and how he was humbled by God.

Quote: Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.

Leadership: John Maxwell shares some great insights as to how humility and leadership can fit together at <http://www.johnmaxwell.com/blog/a-leaders-need-for-humility>.

Application:

- 1. Get Perspective**--Get in the habit of remembering those who invest in your life. Gain an understanding of your abilities, and consider how you can benefit those who rely on you.
- 2. Share the Credit**--As you understand the benefits you have received, you can develop an attitude of gratitude for others' contributions. Humility acknowledges those who provided opportunities, improved your talents, helped you recover from mistakes, made your life more enjoyable, or criticize you. When you receive recognition or reward, accept the praise graciously and tell how others contributed directly to the results.
- 3. Build Teamwork**--The greatest achievements often result when team members give their best effort, without worrying about who gets the credit. Know your colleagues' strengths and allow them the opportunity to further develop, particularly in areas where you are weak.
- 4. Seek Advice**-- Look for those who can give good advice, and listen to critics.
- 5. Serve Others**--Life requires a number of unpleasant and lowly tasks, and every line of work has tasks no one wants to do. In these situations, the humble get the job done without quibbling over job descriptions, drawing attention to their "humility," or even thinking how they are helping the other person. To a humble person, there is only a need and the means to meet it. Reject the flattering notion that you are above necessary tasks.

Discussion Questions:

Think of 2 or 3 people who have made a significant investment in your life. What did they sacrifice on your behalf?