

## SESSION 2

[35 MINUTES]

# THE HEART OF A LEADER

# HOW AM I EDGING GOD OUT?





**The purpose of this session** is for students to identify how they Edge God Out (EGO) of their hearts—whether it’s primarily through pride or fear, which are the biggest barriers to leading like Jesus.

Objectives—for students to:

- + Identify how they Edge God Out (EGO) vs. Jesus’ model of leadership described in Mt 20:28 (by watching a video)
- + Assess whether they’re primarily motivated by pride or fear (by taking an assessment and listening to a video)
- + Identify how they normally express pride or fear (through a small group activity)
- + Share a work group situation where they experienced pride and/or fear and what triggered it (by participating in a small group activity)

For more information, please read pages 48-63 in *Lead Like Jesus* and pages 43-56 in *Lead Like Jesus 6-week Study Guide*.

#### OUTLINE

- i. Large Group: Session Introduction
- ii. Video: How Am I Edging God Out?
  - a. Large Group Discussion
  - b. Just You Activity: Ego Assessment
- iii. Video: Pride and Fear
  - a. Large Group Discussion
  - b. Small Group Activity: Pride or Fear?
- iv. In Closing...



## LARGE GROUP SESSION INTRODUCTION [1 MINUTE]

As we look at leadership, there are 4 domains. You can follow along on page 10 in your Guide:



The first is the **HEART** of a leader, which is our motivation or why we lead. This is where transformation begins.



The second domain is the **Head** of a leader. It's what we think and believe about leadership, and it ends up influencing our choices and decisions.



The third domain is the **Hands** of the leader. It's what leaders do. It's our actions.



And finally the last domain is the **Habits** of a leader. It's how leaders stay intimately connected with God.

In this session, we'll begin looking at the Heart of a leader.

**Proverbs 4:23** says,

***“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”***

In leadership, having the right heart makes all the difference. And Jesus demonstrated that truth by always leading from a heart that exalted God only. So, let's listen to Marcus as he talks about the heart.

**You can either follow along with the video or turn to the chart on page 12, so when Marcus gets there you'll be able to see it.**



# HOW AM I EDGING GOD OUT? [PLAY VIDEO, 5 MINUTES]

## NOTES:

It's easy to see others' shortcomings and faults, but when it comes to our own, we're often blind. Leading like Jesus is a heart issue, if we don't get that right, then nothing will make us a servant leader.

### Matthew 20:26-28

*Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

BTW, Jesus didn't offer a Plan B

- + He didn't say: "Oh, you only have to serve those who are nice to you."
- + We're not off the hook with those who are angry or bitter
- + Jesus said to serve, just as He served

So, what causes us to only look out for ourselves (satisfying our own needs first vs. serving the best interests of others)?\*

## EDGING GOD OUT AS...



## RESULTS IN TWO KINDS OF EGO PROBLEMS



# PRIDE

We're about promoting ourselves.

We tend to show off, do all the talking take all the credit.

It's me, me, me.



# FEAR

We're about protecting ourselves.

We're always worried. So, we care too much about what others think about us.

We try to control the people around us.

(\*One answer is that we put our trust in things and relationships—to give us our self-worth and security—instead of in God and His promises.)



## LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION [3 MINUTES]

**Ok, so what's going on between Tasha and Carmen? Just SHOUT IT OUT.**

**Possible Responses:**

- + They're jealous of each other.
- + They can't stand one another.
- + Tasha is afraid, which is what Carmen said.

Tip: To encourage participation from everyone, get people to respond from tables/groups whom you haven't heard from yet. You could even number the tables and go in order. OR, if you don't have tables, ask for someone to contribute from a section of the group you haven't heard from yet (e.g. in the back, left-hand side).

And we got an indication that Carmen thinks Tasha is dealing with fear issues—"afraid that she won't be in the center of attention."

**What do you think Carmen might be dealing with—fear or pride?  
Those of you who think it's pride, raise your hand.**

Pause

**Those of you who think it's fear, raise your hand.**

Pause

OK, we'll find out about Carmen later, but now we're going to focus on you. What's your biggest challenge—pride or fear?

**You can follow along as I read the directions for the EGO Assessment.**



## JUST YOU ACTIVITY: EGO ASSESSMENT [7 MINUTES]

Purpose: For students to identify whether they're primarily motivated by pride or fear

1. **Complete both parts of the EGO Assessment located in the Appendix:**
  - **Pride Assessment**
  - **Fear Assessment**
2. **Then total your scores.**

Watch to see when most students are done. (You'll begin to hear them talking or see them looking up from their paper; this may be around four minutes.)

- + When you see that many students are finished, ask the group for a hand raise as to how many are done. If it's 75% or more, tell the rest to finish completing the assessment while you move ahead.
- + If most students are not done, give them another couple minutes.
- + After 6-8 minutes, say the transition statement below.

Now, to double-check your conclusions from your assessment, listen to Scott, the youth pastor, give a fuller explanation of pride and fear.



## PRIDE AND FEAR [PLAY VIDEO, 6 MINUTES]



## EDGING GOD OUT AS...

WHO I WORSHIP

MY SOURCE OF SECURITY & SELF-WORTH

MY AUDIENCE & ULTIMATE AUTHORITY IN MY LIFE



## RESULTS IN TWO KINDS OF EGO PROBLEMS



# PRIDE

We're about promoting ourselves.

We tend to show off, do all the talking take all the credit.

It's me, me, me.

"I'm better than..."

We have an overly high opinion of ourselves. We tend to be haughty and arrogant.

### **Romans 12:3**

*"...thinking more of and about yourself than you should."*



# PRIDE & FEAR ALWAYS

Cause us to **compare** ourselves to others, so we're never happy...(never content or we become arrogant and judgmental).

**Distort the truth** about living life God's way, so we think we're missing out if we do (which causes us to lie or exaggerate).

**Separate** us from God, others and ourselves (so we feel isolated and alone).



# FEAR

We're about protecting ourselves.

We're always worried. So, we care too much about what others think about us.

We try to control the people around us.

"I'm not good enough."

We are insecure, have low self-esteem/lack self-confidence. We can be afraid to give our opinion. We try to please others.

We think too much about what others think. We can also come off as prideful. We worry about our appearances. We strive for perfection.

### **Proverbs 29:25**

*"The fear of man is a trap."*



## LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION [4 MINUTES]

- + Share with the group which motivation you're personally challenged by: pride or fear. (Sharing personally is critical to helping the students be vulnerable with each other. If you have table leaders, make sure they share which one they're primarily challenged by, as well.)
- + Then give an example of how you normally express it—modeling for them what you're expecting them to do.
- + For example: "I'm primarily challenged by fear, and one way it comes out is when I don't tell someone the truth, because I'm afraid they'll get mad at me or I'm afraid I'll hurt their feelings."

Tasha and Carmen clearly aren't happy. But it's a situation where we all find ourselves in at some time or another. So, let's take a deeper look at our pride and fear, and I'll start.

**"For me, I'm primarily challenged by \_\_\_\_\_ (pride/fear) and I notice it comes out when \_\_\_\_\_."**

**So what are you primarily challenged by, pride or fear?**

**Let's do a hand raise. How many of you are challenged by pride?**

**Raise your hand.**

Pause and get a sense of what percent of the group is dealing with pride.

**How many of you are challenged by fear? Raise your hand.**

Pause and get a sense of what percent of the group is dealing with fear.

**How many of you think you're equally challenged by both pride and fear?**

**Raise your hand.**

Pause and get a sense of what percent of the group struggles with both.

**Then comment on your observation, such as: "It looks like 2/3s of us are primarily motivated by fear."**

**Scott, the youth pastor in the video, mentioned 3 ways that pride and fear affect us—you can see them on page 15 in your Guide. They always cause us to:**



- + Separate from God, others, and ourselves.
- + Compare ourselves to others.
- + Distort the truth by lying or exaggerating.

**Now, take a moment and write down a project work group you're currently in or if you're not currently in one, think of one you were in recently.** Maybe it's one from a class, a club, a team, church, etc.

**When you compared yourself to the others in the group—because we all do—did you become anxious or arrogant? Or something else? Go ahead and jot it down.**

Pause

**How did you isolate or separate yourself from the group? Did you remain silent, not speaking up because you were afraid or did you monopolize the conversation and keep others from contributing? Take a moment to write your thoughts down.**

Pause

**Finally, what about distorting the truth? In what ways did you lie or exaggerate to keep from getting in trouble or to sound better than you really were? Go ahead and jot that down.**

Pause

I'm going to give you some time to process this a little more in a Small Group Activity.



## **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY: PRIDE AND FEAR [8 MINUTES]**

Purpose: For students to identify what triggered their pride/fear in a work group situation



**NOTE:**

Opening up to others about their pride/ fear, is the first step toward “healing”/Exalting God Only and creating community.

Read the instructions below.

**1. Get into a group of 4 or 5. (The leader is the one who has had a pet the longest.)**

**2. Share with your group:**

- a. Which you’re primarily challenged by: Pride/Fear/Both**
- b. How you normally express it (if it helps, you can use a statement from the Assessment you thought was most true of you)**
- c. A current project work group/service group/club you’re in—a group where you have to work with others to get something accomplished (If you aren’t currently in a group, think of a past group experience.)**
- d. A time when you reacted out of pride/fear and what you think triggered it**

**You have 8 minutes, so go ahead and start.**

Project work group:

Pride/fear/both?

How you normally express it:

Project work group:

What triggered your pride/fear?



After 4 minutes, tell them they should be halfway finished.

After 8 minutes, call the group back together.

## IN CLOSING [1 MINUTE]

Hopefully, you've realized that all of us have situations and people in our lives that don't bring out the best in us.

**The key to handling these types of situations and people is to recognize what triggers us to respond out of pride and fear. Because before we can LEAD like Jesus, we have to BE like Jesus.**

And that's what our next session is about—how to have a heart that Exalts God Only.

**Now, take a moment and turn in the Appendix to write down your Takeaway from Session 2.**

Give them time to write down their Takeaway.

If you're doing Session 3 right away, say:

+ "And when you've done that, take a break and be back here by \_\_\_\_\_ (time)."

If you're not doing Session 3 right after Session 2:

+ Pray to close the session.

+ Say: Look for ways to use your Takeaway within the next 5 days.