

**THEME: THE SIGNATURE OF YOU
DON'T LET PRIDE STEAL YOUR PURPOSE
ESTHER 5:1-6:13**

Questions: How does pride steal our purpose? What is the solution?

No matter who you are and how you are wired, God's signature purpose for you involves loving others. Pride will steal that purpose. Haman's sense of self-importance was challenged by Mordecai – and his insecurity drove him to try and erase Mordecai.

How does pride steal our purpose?

Point #1 - PRIDE STEALS OUR SECURITY

Pride makes you incredibly fragile because pride is vulnerable to anyone or anything that threatens your sense of self-importance, self-sufficiency and self-righteousness. Share a time in your life when you've felt threatened by someone else's actions/reactions to you. How did you respond? How should you have responded? How has that situation changed you?

Take some time to think about your current relationships with those around you...Is your identity, and your security fragilely built on the opinions, or praise of others?

How does pride steal our purpose?

Point #2 - PRIDE FEEDS OUR RESENTMENT

Pride will protect itself at all cost, even if it costs someone else.

Has your pride ever led you to resent someone? How has/did your own pride get in the way of that relationship? Is pride currently standing in the way of some of your relationships? How could you humble yourself and even risk vulnerability in this situation?

How does pride steal our purpose?

Point #3 - PRIDE LEAVES US EMPTY

When our foundation is our own perfection, and something threatens that, the only thing we can do is remove that threat, which, in the end, leaves you empty and alone.

Have you pushed people away because they get in your way, or challenge you too much? Maybe the way they do something isn't the way you do it and you are easily annoyed with them. Pride draws us to perfection. Have you experienced the loneliness of perfection?

So, then what's the solution?

Point #4 - LET GOD'S GRACE WRECK YOU

Have you taken time to process how His mercy and grace on your life truly changes everything? When is the last time you sat in awe of what He's done to save your soul? How has He kept you from what you really deserve? How has He given you so much more than you should have? As a group reflect on these things and share with each other what He has done personally in your own life.

If we are going to find our "true selves", the only place we will find it is rooted in Christ. Pride prevents us from going there and it steals our God-given potential and influence in the world. But God has made you for so much more – *step more deeply into His grace this week.*