

SERMON OUTLINES

for *The Revolutionary Disciple* Teaching Series

The Revolutionary Disciple Teaching Series

Walking Humbly with Jesus in Every Area of Life

Series Overview

This is a 6-week teaching series through Ephesians that uses the message of *The Revolutionary Disciple*. We recommend that you provide the book to attendees so they can go deeper into the material. The book has the discussion questions at the back.

Week 1: Discipleship Is a Journey

Ephesians 4:1-2

Week 2: Abiding in Christ Sphere

Ephesians 2:6-7

Week 3: The Church Sphere

Ephesians 5:23

Week 4: The Home Sphere

Ephesians 5:21

Week 5: The World Sphere

Ephesians 6:7

Week 6: The Spiritual Realm

Ephesians 6:11

Week 1: Discipleship Is a Journey

Lesson Overview

- Key verses: Ephesians 4:1–2: “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”
- Big idea: In order to be a disciple and make disciples, we must be humble, which is a character trait we learn through the journey of discipleship as we walk in relationship with Christ and others.
- Inspiration: We often think of discipleship as a point of arrival when it’s a journey. It’s not just any journey, though; it’s the adventure of learning to follow Jesus in every sphere of life. We can’t keep our pride and still follow humbly. We must lay aside our pride in order to make any progress along the journey of following Jesus together with other disciples.

Potential Points to Explore

- We’re called to be disciples and to make disciples (Matt. 4:19; 28:18–20).
- Without humility, discipleship doesn’t work; pride is the death of discipleship.
- We’re called to walk with Christ in humility (Eph. 4:1–2; Matt. 11:28–30).
- Discipleship is a journey on which we learn humility from Christ—together.
- We must walk with humility if we’re going to follow Christ, and Christ walks us through the Five Spheres of Discipleship.

Potential Stories to Share

- When were you first called to discipleship?
- With whom have you walked on your discipleship journey?
- When did someone call you out for pride and remind you to walk humbly?

Potential Questions to Ask

- How might you be resisting being a disciple or making disciples due to pride?
- Where can you grow in humility?
- What relationship can you better cultivate that will help you on your discipleship journey?

Week 2: Abiding in Christ Sphere

Lesson Overview

- Key verse: Ephesians 2:6–7: “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”
- Big idea: A successful discipleship journey must start with learning to walk humbly in our personal relationship with Christ.
- Inspiration: When we enter an abiding relationship with Christ, we gain a new identity as holy ones. God raises us up to the high place where Christ is seated, but we must learn from Christ the type of humility required to live a fulling life in Christ. We must learn to follow his footsteps, listen to his voice, and surrender all to him before we can successfully make it through the other spheres.

Potential Points to Explore

- Christ took us from living as disciples of the world and the enemy to becoming his disciples and masterpieces (Eph. 2:1–10).
- He changes our identity from sinners to saints.
- Walk through each of the five spheres and how we go through all of them with Christ.
- Walking behind Christ requires humility.
- Make a case for totally surrendering every area of your life.
- We must first learn to listen to and obey his voice before we can walk in humility anywhere else.

Potential Stories to Share

- When did God change your life in some way through learning to listen to his voice?
- When did you save yourself from wreckage because you listened to someone’s advice?
- How did Christ transform your life or someone’s life in your church?

Potential Questions to Ask

- How is your relationship with God?
- How can you cultivate your intimacy with God as you learn to abide with Christ?
- What might God be asking you to do right now? Are you willing to obey his voice?

Week 3: The Church Sphere

Lesson Overview

- Key verse: Ephesians 5:23: “Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.”
- Big idea: Christ is head of the church, and he expects us to come humbly under his leadership as we all seek after him.
- Inspiration: We can take comfort in the fact that we don’t have to invent a new idea of what church is supposed to be. We can simply follow Christ, his leaders, and the way he’s set up his church according to Scripture. This requires us to be humble as we take our place in the church.

Potential Points to Explore

- Whose church is it anyway? It’s Jesus’ church (Eph. 5:23; Matt. 16:18). We must humbly submit to his architectural plans for the church.
- The church is a group of God’s people and the context in which we learn to live humbly. We must have relationships.
- We’re called the “family of God,” and this runs counter to the way the world thinks (Eph. 3:15).
- We’re called to obey our church leaders and submit to them (Heb. 13:17).
- Church leaders are given authority from Jesus with the purpose of building up the body (Eph. 4:11–13). We must be humble as leaders and followers in the church.

Potential Stories to Share

- When have you struggled with pride in the church?
- When have you seen humility modeled in the church setting?
- How have you seen a conflict resolved after people humbled themselves?
- What have you seen when the church humbles itself to follow Jesus’ vision for the church? What fruit have you witnessed?

Potential Questions to Ask

- What is your role in the church right now? Are you a leader or a follower?
- How are you doing with your role? Are you walking humbly?
- How might God be asking you to pursue humility in your role in the church right now?

Week 4: The Home Sphere

Lesson Overview

- Key verse: Ephesians 5:21: “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”
- Big idea: We must have humility to follow Christ and faithfully live out our role at home.
- Inspiration: Just as God orders the church, so he places authority in the home. This too is a great comfort because the Scriptures lay out our roles. Our challenge is to learn what it looks like to live out these roles. If we all look to Christ, no matter our role in the home, we can all serve and submit in light of who he is. Just as the church is not about us as individuals, even family is not about us—it’s about our following Christ *together* along the discipleship journey.

Potential Points to Explore

- Each person has a role in the home.
- We all have a role whether we’re married or not.
- We are to be faithful in marriage or chaste in singleness, but if we’re single, we’re not alone.
- Wives and husbands are called to submit to each other in different ways (Eph. 5:21–33).
- Kids are called to obey their parents in the Lord, and parents are not to exasperate their children (Eph. 6:1–4). This requires humility from both sides.

Potential Stories to Share

- How have you seen humility modeled in the home?
- When have you seen a family embrace a single person in a Christlike way to expand the reach of “home”?
- What meaningful examples of humility have you seen between a husband and spouse?

Potential Questions to Ask

- What’s your role in the home?
- What does humility look like for you in your role?
- How might God be asking you to be more like Christ at home?
- How can you teach your kids about their identity in Christ and how that affects their relationships in the home?

Week 5: The World Sphere

Lesson Overview

- Key verse: Ephesians 6:7: “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.”
- Big idea: Jesus teaches us to walk humbly where we live, work, and play, so when we go out into the world, we look for ways to serve, submit, listen, and confess.
- Inspiration: We live in a world that doesn’t always follow Jesus. In fact, it’s often antagonistic to Christ. How then do we live? We walk with humility in the world, where we interact with those who don’t follow Christ. Whether it’s in the face of governmental leaders, our boss at work, or the coach on the field—we are called to walk with humility in the world.

Potential Points to Explore

- God has a purpose for our life in the world. We must learn to live in that purpose to find meaning (Eph. 6:5–9).
- The world has redefined the purpose of work, so we must unlearn that and relearn God’s purpose.
- We’re called to provide for our families at work, but we are also to reach the lost.
- Work, church, and family life can all work together, but they get out of sync when one sphere gets too big and infringes on another sphere.
- The way we interact with people at the grocery store should align with how we treat people at church and at home. They all require humility for a well-ordered life.

Potential Stories to Share

- How have you struggled with pride in the world?
- When have you seen humility lived out where you live, work, or play?
- Who in your church exemplifies being a faithful disciple in the world?

Potential Questions to Ask

- Where are you walking in pride instead of humility where you live, work, and play?
- What opportunities for the kingdom lie in front of you if you will walk humbly with Christ in the world?
- How might God be asking you to walk more humbly?

Week 6: The Spiritual Realm

Lesson Overview

- Key verse: Ephesians 6:11: “Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”
- Big idea: Authorities exist in the spiritual realm, but if we will recognize these authorities, learn their dynamics, and stay close to Christ and his church, we will experience victory by God’s grace in spiritual battle.
- Inspiration: The spiritual realm encompasses all the other spheres because it’s a different dimension in our lives. Even in this dimension—where we encounter spiritual forces of good and evil—we’re called to walk humbly with Christ. He holds the victory in the end, but we’re in the midst of fighting battles with him and for him. Humility in this sphere means submitting to the voice and authority of Christ and walking closely with the people of God.

Potential Points to Explore

- The “spiritual realm” is what exists all around us in a different dimension (Eph. 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12).
- The enemy attacks us in the spiritual realm and tries to destroy our whole discipleship journey.
- We should not treat lightly the authority of Jesus in the spiritual realm (Acts 19:13–22).
- We must fight personally in our home and with our church—together—in order to find victory in spiritual warfare.
- Our enemy schemes to destroy us, so we must take our stand in a shrewd way to stand strong.
- The enemy seeks to destroy by dividing God’s church. Unity is the antidote to this.
- Fighting well requires humility because it helps us submit to Christ’s authority in battle and unify with the church, instead of doing our own thing.

Potential Stories to Share

- When have you seen spiritual attacks against a group to divide them? How did people fight (or not fight) to combat this?
- What examples of spiritual warfare have you witnessed?
- How have you seen the spiritual realm integrate with the other spheres?

Potential Questions to Ask

- What spiritual battle are you facing right now?
- How is God calling you to fight based on Scripture?
- Where is your weak point in spiritual warfare? What’s your strong suit?