



Kip and the Battle with Pride

Kip was a boy who used to start every morning with a quiet prayer. He thanked God for his family and for the strength to play the game he loved. Back then, he understood a very important truth. He knew that every breath and heartbeat was a gift of God's grace.

When he played soccer, he was the first to cheer for a teammate's goal. He always remembered to say "please" and "thank you" to his coaches and parents. He was a humble leader. But as Kip became the star player on his team, something shifted. The cheers of the crowd began to feel more important than his morning prayers.

Slowly, he began to believe a lie. He started to think his success was all his own doing. He stopped praying because he thought he didn't need God's help anymore. Without realizing it, Kip was letting the **vice of pride** take root in his heart. Pride is a sneaky thing that puts "me" at the center of everything.



Source Teaching: Scan the QR code to access this source teaching as well as additional resources such as related Scripture, quotes, and more. Or, visit horseandchariot.com/the-vice-of-pride

For Kip, pride looked like a "King Me" attitude. He stopped passing the ball because he was convinced he knew better than everyone else. At home, he spent all his time on his phone. He was constantly looking for "likes" on his videos. He had a deep desire to be seen by others.

He even began to be rude to his parents. He didn't realize that even small acts of disobedience come from pride. He was putting his own will before the will of God. Soon, Kip's heart began to change. He became arrogant. When his coach tried to help him, Kip felt a sharp resistance to being corrected.

He started to look down on his teammates, believing he was better than them. He was consumed with himself. But the Bible warns, "No servant can serve two masters". The more Kip worshipped himself, the more he pushed God away.

By the middle of the season, Kip was miserable. His teammates stopped joking with him, and he felt far away from his parents. His pride made his ego feel big, but it made his happiness shrink. He was lonely and his heart felt sad. He had put himself on the throne of his heart, but that seat felt cold and empty.

One Saturday night, Kip sat alone in his room. He had played poorly and snapped at his best friend. His strength had finally run out, just as the truth said it would. He looked at his soccer trophies and realized they couldn't comfort him. He missed the peace he used to have when he was humble.

Kip realized that by trying to be his own master, he had actually become a servant to his pride. He knelt by his bed, feeling small for the first time in months. He used his two strongest weapons: the ***virtues of faith and humility***.

He whispered, "God, I'm sorry. I thought I did this all myself, but I know now that You are my source of everything. I am nothing without You". He told God he was weak and asked Him to be the King of his heart again.

Returning to God didn't make Kip a worse soccer player; it made him a better person. He started giving his teammates credit for successes and gave God the glory for his talents. He found that when he cheered for others and put God first, he felt lifted up in return—not by his own hand, but by God's.

Kip learned that while pride makes a heart cold, the virtues of faith and humility are what make a soul truly shine. They are what reflect the character of Christ.

Simple Reflection Questions (5 Minutes)

Ask the kids these three questions to get them thinking:

- 1. The "Feeling" Question:** How did Kip's heart feel when he was only thinking about himself? *(Answers: Cold, lonely, sad, heavy)*
- 2. The "Warning" Question:** What were the "warning signs" that pride was taking over Kip's heart? *(Answers: Not praying, not passing the ball, being rude to parents)*
- 3. The "Grace" Question:** When Kip put God back on the throne, did he become a worse soccer player or a better person? Why?

The "Hands" Exercise (4 Minutes)

This is a physical way to show the difference between Pride and Humility.

Step 1 (The Proudful Heart): Have everyone make two tight fists. Tell them: "This is a heart full of pride. It's holding onto its own trophies and 'likes.' It can't catch anything new from God because it's too busy holding onto itself."

Step 2 (The Humble Heart): Have everyone open their hands wide with palms facing up. Tell them: "This is a humble heart. It's open to receive God's help, and it's ready to give help to others. It's light and peaceful."

The "King of My Heart" Prayer (2 Minutes)

Have the kids close their eyes and repeat after you:

Dear God,

- Thank You for the gifts You give me.
- Please forgive me for the times I try to be the King.
- Help me to step off the throne,
- and let You lead the way.
- Make my heart humble and my spirit kind.

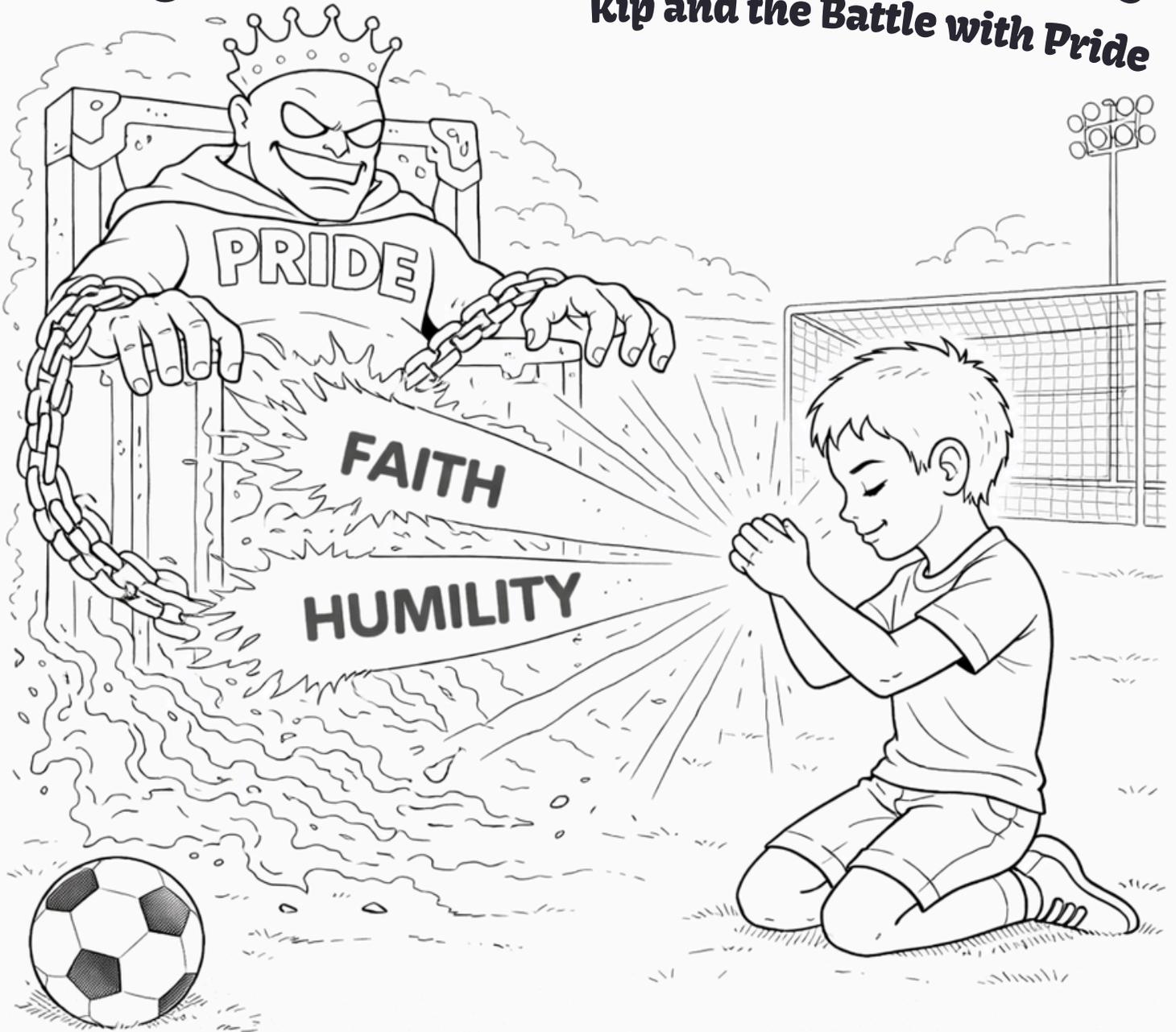
Amen.

Fun Extras:

- **Coloring Page:** Give the kids time to color and fill in the page on the back
- **Virtue over Pride:** Talk through the examples at the bottom of the coloring page. Try to relate them to real-life situations you've encountered recently. This is a great way to connect the lesson to everyday life and gently challenge growth.

CHOOSE FAITH & HUMILITY!

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Circle what it looks like to choose virtue over pride

Bragging about winning: "I'm the best!" — or — Encouraging others: "Great game, team!"

Admitting you were wrong and saying sorry — or — Blaming someone else when you mess up

Listening carefully and trying to improve — or — Rolling your eyes when corrected

Asking for help when you need it — or — Refusing help to look strong

Forgetting God when things are going well — or — Praying before a big game or test

Thanking God for all your talents — or — Thinking your good all on your own