

Module Overview: For the next four weeks, we will learn how to recognize and fight the sin of stubbornness and pride, how to trust God with willing and patient hearts, and remain steady in our faith when we are discouraged and overwhelmed.

Module 8, Week 1: The Dangers of Stubbornness and Pride

1. In **Isaiah 46:12** we read: *You people are stubborn and far from being safe, so listen to me.*

Question: What does it mean to be stubborn, especially toward God, and how does it make us unsafe? Being stubborn toward God means resisting His guidance, which leads us away from wisdom and into harmful choices.

2. In **Zechariah 7:11** we read: *Your ancestors refused to listen to this message. They stubbornly turned away and put their fingers in their ears to keep from hearing, and Jeremiah 7:24 reads: But they did not obey Me or bend their ear to hear Me, but followed the counsel and the stubbornness of their own evil heart (mind), and they turned and went backward instead of forward.*

Question: According to these verses, how do stubborn people act and how does this affect them? They turn away and refuse to listen to God, which causes them to make bad decisions.

3. **Proverbs 21:24** tells us that people who act with stubborn pride are called "proud," "bragger," and "mockers," and **Proverbs 29:1** reads: *If you get more stubborn every time you are corrected, one day you will be crushed and never recover.*

Question: What does it mean if a person is a "bragger" and "mockers," and how can this behavior cause someone to become more stubborn? A bragger elevates themselves above others, and a mocker dismisses correction; both attitudes harden the heart and prevent growth.

4. In **Micah 6:8**, God helps us avoid pride and stubbornness: *You mortals, the LORD has told you what is good. This is what the LORD requires from you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to live humbly with your God.*

Question: How do we "love mercy" and how do we "live humbly" with God? We love mercy by showing compassion and forgiveness, and we live humbly by recognizing our dependence on God and following His ways.

5. In **2 Chronicles 7:14**, we read: *If My people who are called by My name put away their pride and pray, and look for My face, and turn from their sinful ways, then I will hear from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

Question: Why does God ask us to turn away from pride and our sinful ways, and what happens when we do? God asks this because pride separates us from Him; when we turn away, He forgives, restores, and brings healing.

Let's Talk About It:

- How does stubbornness cause us to have a hardened heart?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to see when we are acting in a prideful or stubborn way?
- When was the last time you acted in a stubborn or prideful way, and how did the Lord help you to "put it away"?

Challenge: This week, spend time praying to God about any areas in your life where you are being stubborn and/or prideful, and ask Him to forgive you and help you release these behaviors.

Module 8, Week 2: Patience and Willingness

1. In **2 Thessalonians 3:5** we read: *May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ*, and **Psalm 37:7** reads: *Be patient and wait for the LORD to act; don't worry about those who prosper or those who succeed in their evil plans.*

Question: Where does patient endurance come from and why do we need it? Patient endurance comes from Christ, and we need it to trust God's timing and (to) remain steady when life feels unfair or difficult.

2. In **1 Chronicles 28:9**, we are told to serve the LORD wholeheartedly and willingly because He searches every heart and understands every thought we have, and **Romans 13:11** reads: *You know the times in which we are living. It's time for you to wake up. Our salvation is nearer now than when we first became believers.*

Question: How is willingness to serve the Lord related to being spiritually awake? Being spiritually awake is when we can recognize God's presence in our lives and then our willingness to serve Him flows out of that awareness of and love for Him.

3. **Matthew 26:4** reads: *Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.*

Question: How does our willingness to trust in the Lord impact our ability to withstand temptation? Willingness to trust God strengthens our dependence on Him, helping us stay alert and resist temptation instead of relying on our own weak willpower.

Psalm 16:8 reads: *I have set the LORD continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken*, and **Lamentations 3:25-26** reads: *The LORD is good to those who wait confidently for Him, to those who seek Him on the authority of God's word. It is good that one waits quietly for the salvation of the LORD.*

Question: How can we "set the Lord continually before" us and wait confidently for Him—especially during difficult times? We can keep God before us through prayer, Scripture, intentional focus on His truth, and choosing to trust His character even when circumstances are uncertain.

Let's Talk About It:

- Why is it so difficult to wait on the Lord and His timing, especially when we are in stressful situations?
- When was a time when you had to "patiently endure" a circumstance or situation and God provided for you? Please explain how God helped you.

Challenge: Pray for God to strengthen your faith, willingness to stand against temptation, and patient waiting on His purposes and timing.

Module 8, Week 3: Battling Discouragement and Overwhelm

1. In **1 Kings 19:1-18** we read about the prophet Elijah and how he is contending with the prophets of Baal and Queen Jezebel, who threatened his life, causing him to flee into the wilderness. He was exhausted, overwhelmed, and afraid, and asked God to let him die. God responds with care rather than rebuke—providing rest and nourishment—then gently redirects Elijah back to his purpose.

Question: How does exhaustion, fear, and discouragement often cause us to feel like giving up? Exhaustion clouds our thinking, weakens our perspective, and makes us feel inadequate, causing us to lose sight of God's protection over us and calling on our lives.

2. In **2 Corinthians 12:9**, the Apostle Paul kept asking God to remove an exhausting ailment from him, but God responded each time by saying: *"No. But I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people." Now I am glad to boast about how weak I am; I am glad to be a living demonstration of Christ's power, instead of showing off my own power and abilities.*

Question: Why was the Apostle Paul able to find hope and purpose in his suffering, even though God refused to remove the cause of it? Paul trusted that God's power was revealed through his weakness, giving his suffering meaning and purpose.

3. **Revelation 2:3** reads: *You have been patient and strong in times of trouble. You have continued to serve me because you believe in me. You have not stopped when you became tired, and 2 Corinthians 1:4 tells us: *What a wonderful God we have—He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does He do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them this same help and comfort God has given us.**

Question: According to these verses, why does God allow trials and hardships in our lives? God uses trials to strengthen us and to equip us to comfort and support others.

4. **Isaiah 40:28-29** reads: *Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The LORD is the everlasting God; He created all the world. He never grows tired or weary. No one understands His thoughts. He strengthens those who are weak and tired.*

Question: How do these verses encourage you to respond when you are feeling exhausted and overwhelmed? These verses remind us to rely on God's strength instead of our own, trusting that He renews and sustains us.

Let's Talk About It:

- When was the last time you felt overwhelmed and afraid and God provided hope and purpose to sustain you? Please describe.
- When were you able to provide sympathy and encouragement to someone in a difficult season because you had experienced something similar?
- How are you comforted by knowing that God never grows weary, tired, or weak?
- How has this week's lesson encouraged you to remain hopeful and patient in difficult circumstances?

Spend the remainder of the meeting preparing for next week's **INSPIRE MEETING**:

1. A student testimony and read the invitation after the testimony
2. Download and print the Response Cards (www.yclprgrams.org/Students)
3. Invite your friends and post the meeting information on social media

Challenge: Invite friends to your youth group and/or church.

Module 8, Week 4: INSPIRE Week

Welcome to our group! We are so glad you are here [Introduce your leadership team].

We meet each week to talk about God, explore what the Bible says, and discuss real-life topics that matter to students. Although we are a student-led Christian group, everyone is welcome. This is a safe, supportive place to build friendships, learn about faith, and feel connected.

Now, let's open the meeting in prayer [student leader prays].

This is **INSPIRE Week** and it's an opportunity to hear faith stories and the good news of Jesus.

The Bible verse we're working from is **Psalms 32:8**: *The Lord says, "I will teach you and guide you in the way you should live. I will watch over you and be your guide."*

A Student leader shares their faith story NOW

Prayer and invitation:

We will now take a minute to talk to God through prayer. In the quiet of your heart and mind, I invite anyone here who wants to begin a relationship with God through faith in Jesus, to agree in your heart and mind with what I am saying because God hears our private thoughts. I will pray out loud and I invite you to pray this in your head:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to you with an open heart. I acknowledge that my self focus has separated me from you. Thank you for promising to hear and answer my prayer, and for showing me that Jesus is the way back to you. I want to place my trust in Him to guard and guide me. Help me to turn from doing things my way and release my life over to you.

In Jesus Name, I pray. Amen

Pass out Response Cards NOW

If this is your prayer today, know that God welcomes you into His family, and you can begin walking in a new relationship with Him right now. And please join us for next week's meeting when we will start a new module.

Challenge: Remember to invite visitors to next week's group meeting and to tell them about your youth group/church.