

**Introduction:** *Engage the group by thinking about a related concept.*

Ask, “Have you ever had anyone spread a rumor about you? Could you stop it? Could you slow it down? Why or why not?” This will help your students see that evil spreads quickly but it is difficult to stop or slow down.

**Part 1:** *Assist your group members in their understanding of pride.*

Have one of your group members read the following article aloud:

*“I am the LORD; that is My name.” – Isaiah 42:8*

*The Nile of Africa, which spans 6,650 kilometers (more than 4,100 miles) and flows northward across several northeastern African countries, is the world’s longest river. Over the centuries, the Nile has provided sustenance and livelihood for millions of citizens in the countries it passes through. Currently, Ethiopia is building what will become Africa’s largest hydropower dam on the Nile. It will be a great resource for the area.*

*Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, claimed to be the Nile’s owner and originator. He and all Egypt boasted, “My River is my own; I have made it for myself” (Ezek. 29:3,9). They failed to acknowledge that God alone provides natural resources. As a result, God promised to punish the nation (vv. 8-9).*

*We are to care for God’s creation, and not forget that everything we have comes from the Lord. Romans 11:36 says, “For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever.” He is the One who also endows humanity with the ability to manufacture and invent man-made resources. Whenever we talk about a good thing that has come to us or that we have accomplished, we need to remember what God says in Isaiah 42:8, “I am the LORD; that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another.”*

*Praise the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does such wonderful things. Praise Your glorious name forever! Let the whole earth be filled with Your glory.*

*To God be the glory—great things He has done!*

*Insight: The psalmist says, “The earth is the LORD’s and everything in it” (Ps. 24:1 NIV). Ezekiel underscores this point to the Pharaoh of Egypt. Pharaoh claimed to have created the Nile (Ezek. 29:3), but Ezekiel shows that God is angry with Pharaoh’s arrogant claim. God is the true Creator and He controls the beasts of the field and the fish of the sea (vv. 3-5).*

Ask your students about their insights. Have 2 or 3 share them with the class.

[Lawrence Darmani (April 12, 2015), “That Is Mine!” Our Daily Bread [online], 12 April 2015 [cited 18 August 2015]. Available from the Internet: <http://odb.org/2015/04/12/that-is-mine/>.]

## ***Part 2: Help your students see the truth of God’s judgment on pride.***

The sinking of the British ship RMS *Titanic* on April 15, 1912, with a loss of over 1,500 lives on her maiden voyage has become legendary. Much has been written on this subject. Many view the tragedy as a morality play about the dangers of human arrogance: the *Titanic*’s creators believed they had built an “unsinkable” ship that could not be defeated by the laws of nature. There was a belief that nothing could sink this ship. Like the builders of the *Titanic*, many Christians believe they can build their own kingdom and God won’t do anything about it. Have your class spend a few minutes thinking about examples of God’s judgment on man’s attempts at building his own “kingdoms.”

## ***Part 3: Challenge for application.***

Give the students a few minutes to examine their lives to see if there are areas where God has or is judging or disciplining them in their attempts to build their own kingdoms. If they are willing to share, let them. If not, instruct them to spend a few minutes with the Lord confessing this sin and repenting of it.

### **Conclusion: *Challenge for application.***

Ask, “Whose kingdom are you building? The people of Babel tried to build a kingdom for themselves and God confounded them. Many Christians are doing the same today. Instead, we should be like the Christians in the early church who focused on spreading God’s kingdom by proclaiming the gospel.” Have your students give practical ways they can obey the Great Commission.

### **Teaching Tip of the Week**

It is important that a teacher not only knows the subject and the students, but it is also important that he or she is familiar with the classroom. It is important to note the little things that can make a big impact on the class. Is the room too warm or cold? Is the lighting adequate? Is there too much noise from surrounding areas? Can the students see the teacher, the board, and each other? As teachers, we can make a difference not only in what we teach, how we teach, and who we are, but also in preparing our classrooms for the best possible lesson presentation. We are teaching eternal truths. It would be tragic if our students aren’t giving their full attention to the lesson because they were distracted by a controllable circumstance.