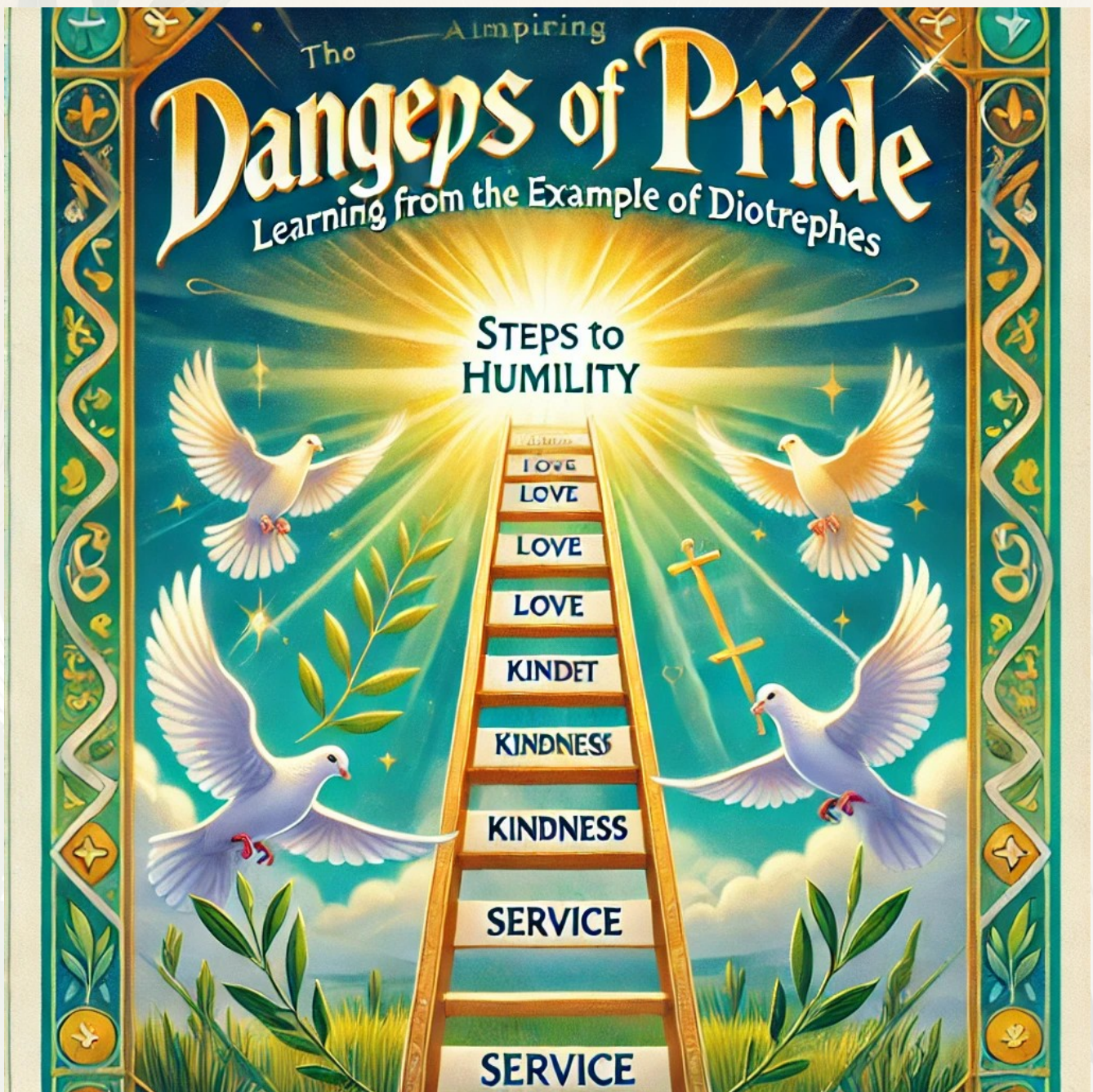




The Dangers of Pride: Learning from the Example of Diotrephes

By Ariel Presswood

Reject Pride | Embrace Humility | Serve with Love

This activity and summary sheet set is designed to inspire participants to understand the dangers of pride and the transformative power of humility, as taught in 3 John 1:9-10. Through interactive activities, meaningful reflections, and practical applications, participants will learn to recognize and address pride in their lives, embrace humility, and reflect God's love through acts of selfless service. Let this guide encourage you to live a life marked by humility and unity, glorifying God in all you do.

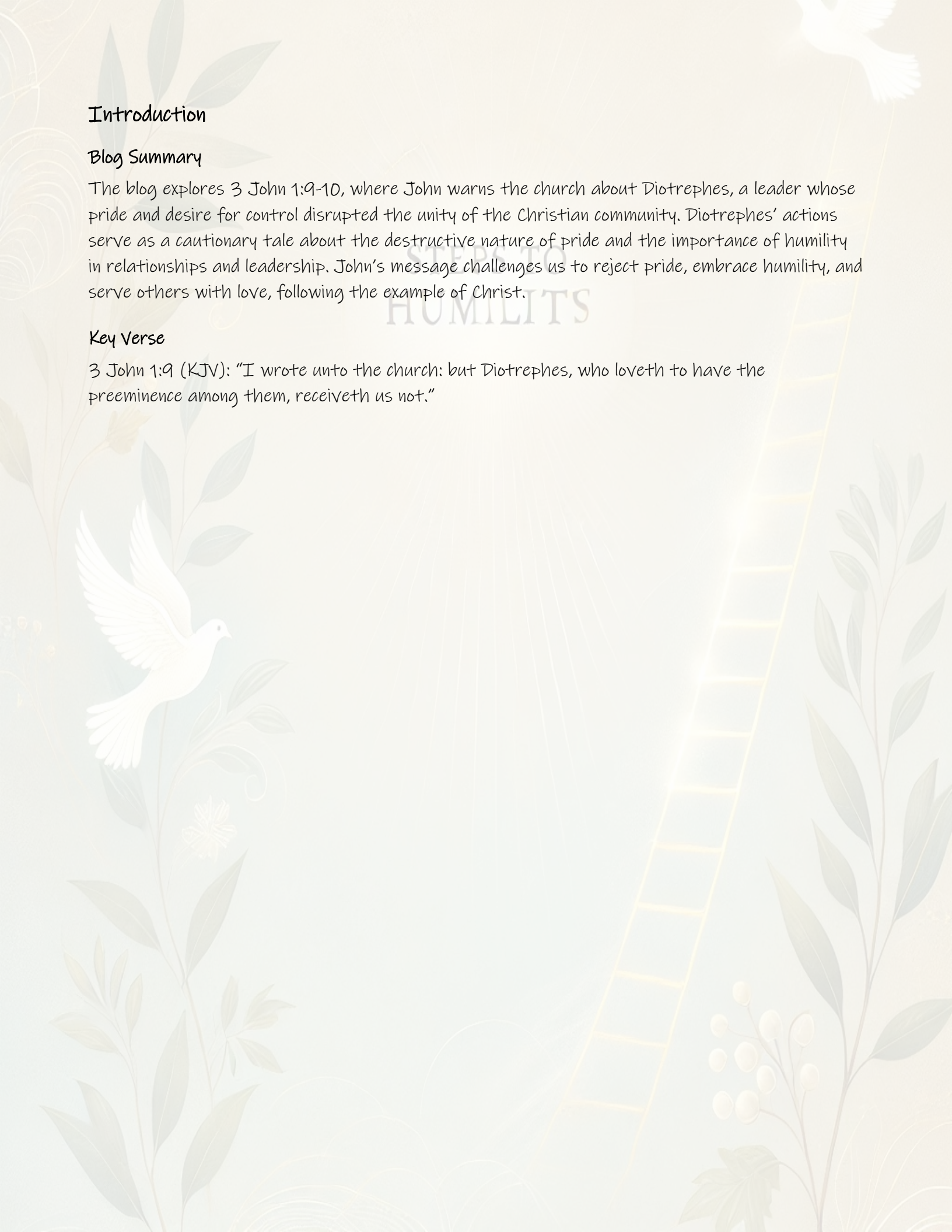
Introduction

Blog Summary

The blog explores 3 John 1:9-10, where John warns the church about Diotrephes, a leader whose pride and desire for control disrupted the unity of the Christian community. Diotrephes' actions serve as a cautionary tale about the destructive nature of pride and the importance of humility in relationships and leadership. John's message challenges us to reject pride, embrace humility, and serve others with love, following the example of Christ.

Key Verse

3 John 1:9 (KJV): "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not."



Reflection Questions

Recognizing Pride

1. What are some signs that pride might be influencing your actions or decisions?
2. How does pride affect your relationships with others and with God?
3. What steps can you take to recognize and address pride in your life?

Embracing Humility

1. What does humility mean in your relationships and actions?
2. How can Christ's example of humility inspire you to serve others selflessly?
3. When have you experienced the joy of putting others before yourself?

Serving with Love

1. How can serving others reflect God's love in your community?
2. Who in your life needs encouragement or support, and how can you help?
3. What small acts of kindness can you do this week to serve others with humility?

Section 1: Interactive Activities

Activity 1: Humility Ladder Craft

Objective: Reflect on the steps needed to move away from pride and embrace humility through a creative activity.

Materials Needed:

- Construction paper, markers, and glue.
- Printable ladder templates.
- Strips of paper for writing steps toward humility.

Instructions:

1. Decorate a ladder template with symbols of humility and service.
2. Write specific actions or attitudes on the strips that represent steps toward humility (e.g., "Listen more," "Apologize when wrong," "Encourage others").
3. Attach the strips to the rungs of the ladder and discuss how each step helps you grow in Christlikeness.

Reflection: What steps can you take to climb the "ladder of humility"? How does this help you avoid the dangers of pride?

Activity 2: Servant's Heart Challenge

Objective: Practice serving others with humility through intentional acts of kindness.

Materials Needed:

- Printable "Servant's Heart" challenge cards.
- Pens or markers for writing personalized challenges.

Instructions:

1. Participants draw or create cards with acts of service (e.g., "Help a neighbor," "Encourage a friend," "Do a household chore without being asked").
2. Complete the challenges throughout the week and share experiences during the next session.
3. Reflect on how these acts of service impacted your relationships and your heart.

Reflection: How did serving others help you grow in humility? What did you learn about God's love through these actions?

Activity 3: Pride vs. Humility Game

Objective: Identify behaviors and attitudes that reflect pride or humility through a fun and engaging group activity.

Materials Needed:

- Printable cards with scenarios that reflect pride or humility.
- Two baskets labeled "Pride" and "Humility."

Instructions:

1. Participants take turns drawing a card, reading the scenario, and deciding whether it reflects pride or humility.
2. Place the card in the appropriate basket and discuss how to address prideful behaviors or encourage humble attitudes.
3. Reflect on how these behaviors influence relationships and community.

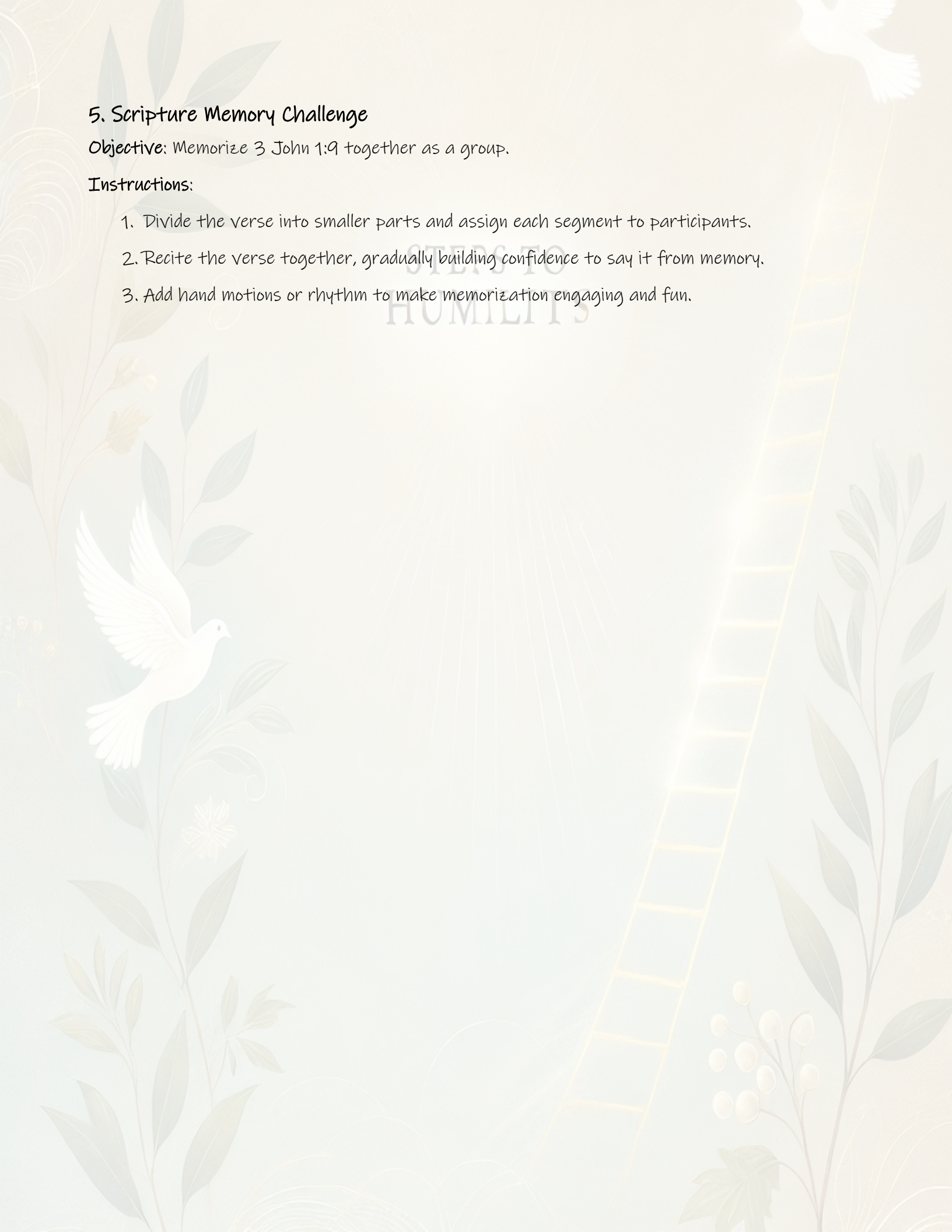
Reflection: What behaviors do you need to change to reflect humility more consistently? How can you encourage humility in others?

5. Scripture Memory Challenge

Objective: Memorize 3 John 1:9 together as a group.

Instructions:

1. Divide the verse into smaller parts and assign each segment to participants.
2. Recite the verse together, gradually building confidence to say it from memory.
3. Add hand motions or rhythm to make memorization engaging and fun.



6. Practical Applications

Daily Humility Journal

Instructions:

1. Write daily reflections on how you practiced humility and addressed pride.
2. Note moments where acts of service brought joy or strengthened relationships.

Family Humility Guide

Structure:

- Monday: Pray for guidance in recognizing and addressing pride.
- Tuesday: Reflect on Christ's example of humility and love.
- Wednesday: Thank God for opportunities to serve others selflessly.
- Thursday: Pray for boldness to encourage and uplift others.
- Friday: Share experiences of humility and acts of kindness with family.
- Saturday: Celebrate acts of service that reflect God's love.
- Sunday: Recommit to living with a servant's heart and prioritizing unity over personal ambition.

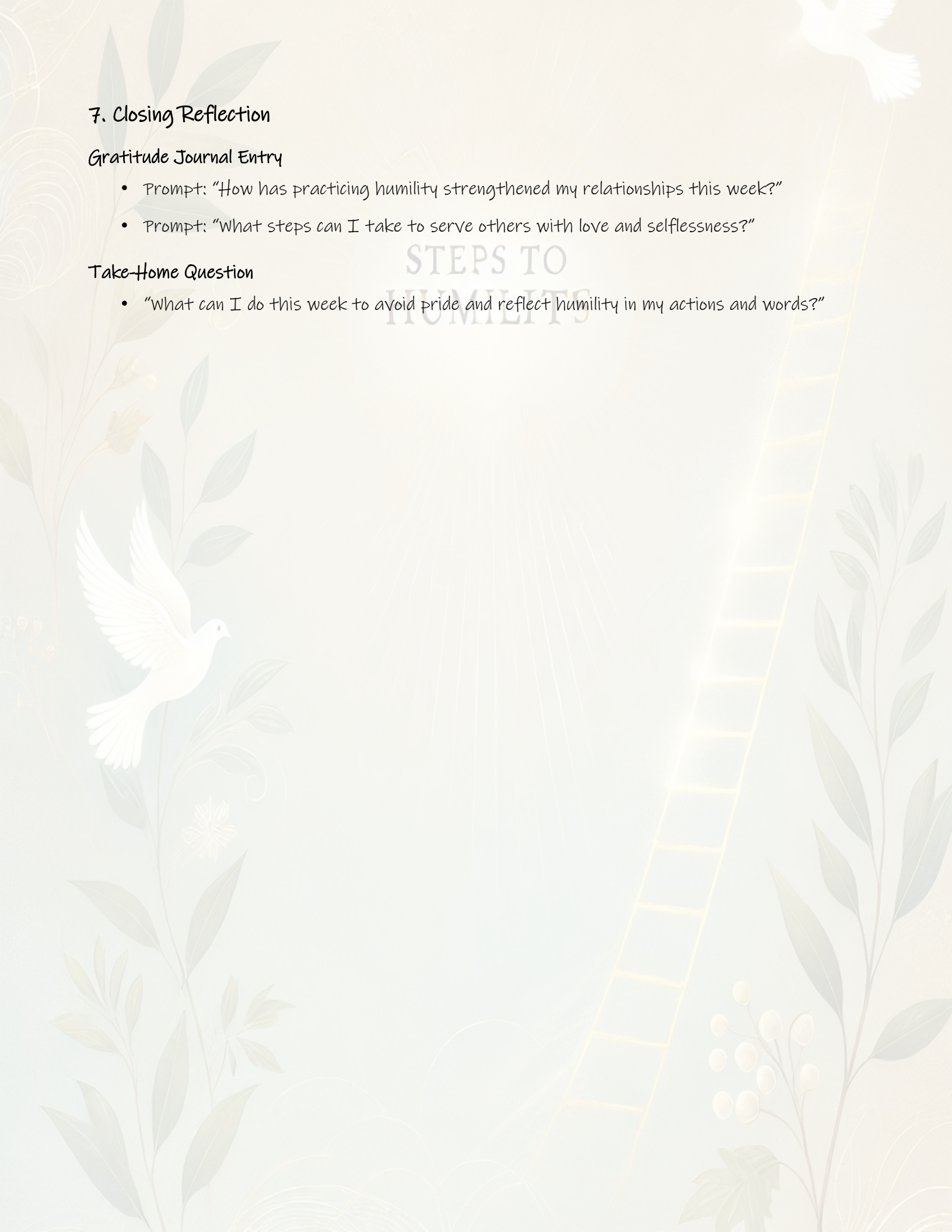
7. Closing Reflection

Gratitude Journal Entry

- Prompt: "How has practicing humility strengthened my relationships this week?"
- Prompt: "What steps can I take to serve others with love and selflessness?"

Take-Home Question

- "What can I do this week to avoid pride and reflect humility in my actions and words?"



8. Bonus Content

Printable Coloring Page

- Design: A ladder labeled "Steps to Humility" with the memory verse 3 John 1:9 inscribed, surrounded by symbols of love and service.

Encouragement Cards

- Include quotes from Scripture, such as:
 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit" (Philippians 2:3).
 - "Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another" (1 Peter 5:5).
 - "The greatest among you will be your servant" (Matthew 23:11).