

Here are some ideas to get you started.

## **LEADERS:**

*Need some help? It's okay. We all do.*

A full walk-through of the study guide with notes on how to navigate each session is available at [groupleaders.org/killinit](http://groupleaders.org/killinit).

## **VIDEOS:**

The video sessions that complement this study can be found on the:

- **Anthology Mobile App** (free on the iTunes Store and Google Play)
- **Killin' It DVD** (available on Amazon)

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#KillinItSeries

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## DURING A GROUP MEETING

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### **1. HANG OUT.**

*(About 30 minutes)*

Our lives move so fast these days. Take some time to talk about what's going on in the lives of those in your group. Asking about things like job interviews, the health of their kids, and how their weeks are going goes a long way in building community.

### **2. WATCH THE VIDEO AND DOODLE ALONG.**

*(About 20 minutes)*

When we designed this study guide, we had note-taking in mind. So while you're watching the video, take advantage of the extra space and the grid pages for notes and/or drawings, depending on your note-taking style.

### **3. DISCUSS AND COMPLETE THE ACTIVITIES.**

*(About 45 minutes)*

Depending on the session, your group will have Discussion Questions and scenarios to think through, as well as activities to do. Putting pen to paper can give you deeper insight into the content.

### **4. PRAY.**

*(About 5 minutes)*

Keep it simple and real. Use the prayer provided. Ask God to help you apply what you've learned that week.

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# PART 1

## Remote Controlled

### VIDEO RECAP

#### PRIDE

*“Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness...are mere fleabites in comparison...Pride leads to every other vice.”*

—C.S. Lewis

Pride \_\_\_\_\_ you.

Pride diminishes our **capacity** to admit, to apologize, and to acknowledge.

Pride diminishes our **capacity**:

- \_\_\_\_\_ what needs to be said.
- \_\_\_\_\_ what needs to be heard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ what needs to be given.

Pride crowds **others** out.

Pride crowds **God** out.

*In his **pride** the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.*

(Psalm 10:4)

Your **pride**—not your **intellect**—is keeping you from **God**.

Pride is a prison. It shuts us **in** and it shuts God and others **out**.

An invitation to follow **Jesus** is an invitation to **unfollow** pride.

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ reconciliation.

Pride says, “**Wait.**” Jesus says, “**Initiate.**”

*In your **relationships** with one another, have the **same mindset** as Christ Jesus...he made himself **nothing** by taking the very nature of a **servant**, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he **humbled** himself by becoming obedient to **death**—even death on a **cross!***

(Philippians 2:5, 7-8)

#### FOLLOW ME!

##### Answer Key for Blanks

diminishes	to hear	initiated
to say	to give	

Encourage your group to follow along and fill out the VIDEO RECAP as they watch the video. It'll help them remember the video.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1 What do you think is the main difference between unhealthy pride and healthy pride? Is all pride bad? Discuss.
- 2 When have you seen someone tripped up because of his or her pride?
- 3 Complete the following exercise individually. Then, if you feel comfortable, share some of your answers with the group.

A. Put a check mark beside the things you sometimes have trouble doing.

- Apologizing
- Admitting you're wrong
- Asking for help
- Celebrating others' success
- Admitting you don't know something
- Being honest with yourself
- Being honest with others
- Learning new things
- Listening without offering advice
- Losing
- Not having the final word

B. Circle what pride masquerades as in you. (*Hint: What is your excuse for not doing the things listed above?*)

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| Expertise  | Perfectionism |
| Confidence | Intelligence  |
| Sarcasm    | Authority     |
| Trendiness | _____         |

(Something else?)

C. Mark two things you can commit to do this week to, as Andy suggests, "follow Jesus and unfollow pride."

- Apologize to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Give a compliment.
- Write a thank you note.
- Arrive on time.
- Tell a friend about something you're struggling with.
- Ask \_\_\_\_\_ for advice.
- Listen and sympathize without offering solutions.
- Call, text, or email \_\_\_\_\_.

4 Does the kind of radically liberating humility that Jesus modeled seem realistic to you? Why or why not?

5 In the following scenarios, what would be your natural response? If you followed Jesus' example of humility (Pride say wait, Jesus says initiate), what would be a better response?

A. A colleague in your office was just promoted. Once again, you've been passed over, even though you've been with the company longer, have more experience, and have made significant sacrifices to help grow the business.

More questions on next page.

### QUESTION 1

Pride may "precede the fall," as Proverbs 16:18 says, but is it wrong to be proud of our accomplishments? This question encourages your group to explore the tension between healthy and unhealthy expressions of pride.

### QUESTION 2

This question helps your group members begin to connect pride with real life, but it's still a safe question because it allows them to talk about what they've seen in others. Be ready with your own example, but give space for your group members to go first.

### QUESTION 3

Allow about two minutes for everyone in your group to work through the three parts of this brief exercise. When you're finished, ask if anyone wants to share his or her responses, but don't pressure anyone to speak. Leading the way by being open about your own areas of struggle is the best way to encourage group members to do the same.

### QUESTION 4

This question is meant to give group members permission to speak honestly if they don't agree with the practical application of this part's topic. Respond to group members with humility and curiosity. Don't try to argue them out of their opinions. Instead, ask follow-up questions like, "What are some things you think make that kind of humility impossible?" or "What would it cost you to try out radical humility for just one week?"

### QUESTION 5

These scenarios are designed to reveal the tension between our instinctive responses and the radical humility to which Jesus calls us. Being vulnerable about your own natural instincts will help group members open up about theirs.

- B. Several years ago, a friend lied to you. You haven't seen or spoken to her in the five years since, but you just found out you'll both be attending the same upcoming event.
- C. After you advised him against it, your brother borrowed a significant amount of money from your parents. He just told you that he lost all of the money and won't be able to pay them back.

## THIS WEEK, THINK ABOUT...

Jesus defined greatness by how well you serve other people, not by how well you are served. What can you do this week to serve the people you meet and the people you love?

## PRAYER

God, help me recognize the pride in my life. Give me strength to walk the path of radical humility that Jesus walked.

**YOUR PRIDE—NOT  
your *intellect*  
—IS KEEPING YOU  
from God.**

Don't let your discussion fizzle out. Read THIS WEEK'S THINK ABOUT... aloud to punctuate things and to encourage your group members to take what they've learned into the rest of their week.

This phrase can help you remember what Part 1 was all about.

Who doesn't like free stuff? Take a group selfie. Post it online. Use the hashtag. Your next study may just be gifted to you.

POST A PICTURE OF YOUR GROUP USING #KillinItSeries

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# PART 2

## Heaven Rules

### VIDEO RECAP

**Three P People** have an above average measure of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

People take them seriously because of what they've accomplished. They have jobs or positions that people covet. They have influence. They are wealthy. "Three P" people have a unique challenge when it comes to pride. They have done more, amassed more, and/or carried more influence than most people.

#### BELSHAZZAR'S STORY

Your days are **numbered**.

You are **accountable**.

Your influence is **temporary**.

#### Power, Prestige, and Possessions

- It is a Stewardship.
- It is Temporary.
- You are Accountable.

The Most High is sovereign over **all** kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone **he** wishes.

#### Answer Key for Blanks

power                  possessions  
prestige

As you prepare to lead the discussion for Part 2, keep in mind that regardless of whether you consider yourself a "Three P Person," it's helpful to think about how well you're managing the power, prestige, and possessions God has given you.

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

**1** You may not feel much like a “Three P” person. But as you individually complete the following exercise, you may actually be surprised by the power, prestige, and possessions God has entrusted to you.

A. **Power:** Write down the names of two people (or groups) over whom you have influence. *(Hint: Who do you interact with daily? Who asks for your advice?)*

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B. **Prestige:** Write down two things you are known for doing well. *(Hint: What do you regularly get compliments for? What leadership positions do you hold?)*

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C. **Possessions:** Write down two things you have invested your money and/or energy in. *(Hint: What do you have that others wished they had? What do you have an abundance of?)*

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**2** As you look at the power, prestige, and possessions you wrote down in Question 1, is it difficult for you to believe that everything you have has been given to you by God?

**3** Have you ever had a measure of power, prestige, or possessions that was temporary? If you had known you were going to lose it, would you have used it differently?

**4** Do you know a “Three P” person who is extraordinarily generous? What motivates that person to be generous? What have you learned from him or her?

**5** In the message, Andy said that pride sets you up “to misuse your stuff or miss using it wisely.” Complete the following action plan individually, and then share one of your action items with the group.

A. **Power** *(Pick one of your two responses from Question 1.)*

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How can I be a more positive influence on this person?

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More questions on next page. →

### QUESTION 1

One potential challenge of leading Part 2 is that group members may think the content doesn't apply to them. This question will help them consider the roles power, prestige, and possessions play in their lives. Give your group a few minutes to think through the three parts of this question.

### QUESTION 2

This question is designed to allow group members to express doubt. If one or more group members do so, thank them for being open. Don't try to explain away their doubts. Allow the group to work through these tensions throughout the course of the discussion.

### QUESTION 3

This question turns the discussion toward personal experience. Come prepared with an example from your own life, but allow group members to go first.

### QUESTION 4

A good follow-up question to take the conversation deeper might be: “Do you think it's easier or more difficult for someone who has a lot to be generous? Why?”

### QUESTION 5

This question is all about personal application. Give your group members a few minutes to answer the three parts of the question on their own. Then go around the group and share some of your answers.

B. **Prestige** (Pick one of your two responses from Question 1.)

\_\_\_\_\_

How can I better use this expertise to benefit others?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. **Possessions** (Pick one of your two responses from Question 1.)

\_\_\_\_\_

How can I generously share this item so it's put to good use for God?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## THIS WEEK, THINK ABOUT...

When you see someone with less—less sophistication, intelligence, education, money, or influence—you may be tempted to think more highly of yourself. Pause for a moment and tell your pride, “The Most High is sovereign over all the kingdoms.” Remind your pride that everything God has given you is a stewardship. It's temporary. And you are accountable for how you use it.

### CHALLENGE

Pick one piece of the action plan you created in Question 5 and get started on it this week. Make that phone call, offer the invitation, or give away some of your extra.

## PRAYER

God, remind me this week that I'm accountable for what you've given me. Help me remember that all I have is a stewardship and that it's temporary. Give me the wisdom to look for ways to leverage it on behalf of others.

Remind me that you are sovereign over all kingdoms on earth.

**NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU HAVE, HOW MUCH *power*, HOW MUCH PRESTIGE, HOW MANY POSSESSIONS, IT'S A *stewardship*.**



To end your discussion, read THE CHALLENGE aloud. Talk briefly about how you can hold one another accountable to follow through.

# PART 3

*Known Survivor*

## VIDEO RECAP

AN \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_

- Friendled
- Followed
- Liked
- Mentioned
- Recognized
- Admired
- Sought after
- Envied

### THE PROBLEM WITH APPETITE

Feed it and it \_\_\_\_\_.

It is never fully or finally \_\_\_\_\_.

There is no amount of **known** that will satisfy your appetite to be **known** for the thing you have determined you want to be **known** for.

### JOHN THE BAPTIST

During his ministry, John the Baptist was repeatedly asked if he was the Messiah promised in the Scriptures.

*“I am not the **Messiah**...I am the **voice** of one calling in the wilderness, **Make straight the way for the Lord.**”*

(John 1:20-23)

John the Baptist points to Jesus.

*“**Look**, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

(John 1:29)

After John the Baptist identified Jesus, two of his followers warned him that his ministry was beginning to suffer:

*They came to John and said to him, “**Rabbi**, that **man** who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—**look**, he is baptizing, and **everyone** is going to **him**.” To **this** John replied, “A person can **receive** only what is **given** them from **heaven**. You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah but am **sent ahead** of him’ ...He must become **greater**; I must become **less**.”*

(John 3:26-28, 30)

He was known to make Jesus known. The same is true of us.

To be a **known** survivor, remember Who it's \_\_\_\_\_ and Who it's \_\_\_\_\_.

Our **known** is for his **renown**.

#### Answer Key for Blanks

appetite	grows	from
known	satisfied	for

Prepare to lead your group discussion of Part 3 by reflecting on the following Scriptures during the week before your group meeting:  
 John 1:20-23, 29;  
 John 3:26-28, 30.



## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1 What is one thing you do well that earns the approval of others? How does that approval make you feel?

2 If you're on social media, how much do your followers, friends, and likes matter to you?

3 Complete the following exercise individually. Then, if you feel comfortable, share one of your responses with the group.

A. Pick one of the people below and identify the approval or applause you are seeking from him or her.

- **Parent(s):** I want this person to think I am...
- **Spouse:** I want this person to think I am...
- **Friend:** I want this person to think I am...
- **Boss or Colleague:** I want this person to think I am...
- **Social Media Follower(s):** I want this person to think I am...

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B. How has your desire for applause from this person affected your behavior or decision-making?

C. What is one way you can turn down the volume on his or her applause and tune in instead to what God wants you to do?

4 Have you ever met someone who didn't care about the approval of other people? If so, what was it like being around that person?

5 At the end of your life, what is one thing you would like to be known for? Why do you want to be known for that?

6 Imagine yourself in John the Baptist's position, losing your influence. Does his response seem realistic? How do you think you would have responded?

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### QUESTION 1

This question is a light icebreaker. There are no wrong answers.

### QUESTION 2

This question builds off of the icebreaker, but is designed to help you begin to think about the unhealthy ways we measure the importance of approval from others.

### QUESTION 3

Give your group members about two minutes to complete this question on their own. Invite them to share their answers, but don't push someone to share if he or she is reluctant. Be ready to share one of your answers. Be vulnerable. Your group will follow your lead.

### QUESTION 4

There's a difference between someone who doesn't seek approval from others and someone who wants to look like he or she doesn't seek approval. To make the most of this question, allow your group members space to respond first, but be prepared with an example of someone who was generous or loving because he or she didn't worry about approval from other people.

### QUESTION 5

These are very personal questions. Practice active listening as group members answer. Ask follow-up and clarifying questions. Remember to thank them for sharing.

### QUESTION 6

John the Baptist did the right thing, but it was difficult. It was painful. Don't settle for the "right answer." Wrestle with the tension of how difficult life is when we lose influence. Allow your group members the freedom to do the same.

## THIS WEEK, THINK ABOUT...

How can you stop pursuing the applause of other people and begin to pursue the applause of the One who knew you first and knows you best? How can you shift your focus to the One who gifted you and called you?

In the end, that's the only applause that will matter.

### **CHALLENGE**

Spend 24 hours "fasting" from your normal source of approval.

- Stay off social media.
- Post no stories to solicit approval from friends or colleagues.

Did you receive any unsolicited approval or praise throughout the day?

Was there one person/source whose approval you specifically missed?

## PRAYER

God, it's easy to get distracted by the approval and applause of other people. Remind me to ask first what you are calling me to do so that my *known* can be for your *renown* instead.

*Remember*  
**WHO IT'S**  
*from AND*  
**WHO IT'S**  
*for.*

To end your discussion, read **THE CHALLENGE** aloud. Talk briefly about how you can hold one another accountable to follow through.

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