Date: 2/7/15 (repeated 2/24/18)

Title: Pride Goes before a Fall

Theme: God hates pride because it makes us the center of our attention instead of God.

Object: Jenga blocks. A mirror and a Bible.

Text: Prov 16:5 The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Prov 16:18 Pride goes before destruction.

The Bible says that the Lord detests the proud.

That means that God doesn’t really like those who are proud, who build themselves up and think they are the greatest.

In his day, Mohammed Ali was a great boxer. He was the world champion three times. Nobody in the world could box better than him.

But he was proud instead of humble. He would go around shouting to everyone, “I am the greatest!! Nobody can touch me! I float like a butterfly and sting like a bee. I am the greatest!! … the greatest!!!”

Who really is the greatest? (It’s God, isn’t it? He created everything including us. God, our creator and redeemer, is the greatest!)

The problem with pride is that we think we are so great we don’t need God.

The proud are constantly thinking of how good they are instead of how good God is.

That’s why God hates pride: because the proud are building themselves up and worshipping themselves instead of worshipping God.

Some people are proud of their good looks. [Set up mirror]

“Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all. O never mind, I can see it’s me!

I’m so gorgeous and appealing and well-mannered, and sophisticated and intelligent. I am the fairest in the land.”

You see, the proud look in the mirror and build themselves up and think how great they are.

On the other hand, the humble don’t look in the mirror to see how great they are, they look in the Bible to see how great God is.

They say, “It doesn’t matter to God how pretty we are on the outside, what matters is that we have a heart on the inside that loves God more than anything else.”

I’ve brought these Junga blocks with me today to help us understand what the Bible says will happen to the proud.

Building this tower is like the proud building themselves up and thinking they’re the greatest instead of God.

They just can’t resist telling people how great they are, and so they build themselves up higher and higher.

“O you think that’s good, well I’m better than that!” And they build themselves up a little more.

Do you know what’s going to happen to this proud person? Can you see it coming?

[Prov 16:18] Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. [Crash]

This is what happens when we trust in ourselves instead of God.

So if Satan ever tempts you to be proud and think that you’re the greatest, don’t listen to him.

God wants you to be humble and think how great God is.

How many think that God is the greatest???