**Character Development**

**Part 1**

*These events happened in the days of King Xerxes,who reigned over 127 provinces stretching from India to Ethiopia.At that time Xerxes ruled his empire from his royal throne at the fortress of Susa. In the third year of his reign, he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. He invited all the military officers of Persia and Media as well as the princes and nobles of the provinces. The celebration lasted 180 days—a tremendous display of the opulent wealth of his empire and the pomp and splendor of his majesty.*

Esther 1:1-4 (NLT)

*Drinks were served in gold goblets of many designs, and there was an abundance of royal wine, reflecting the king’s generosity. By edict of the king, no limits were placed on the drinking, for the king had instructed all his palace officials to serve each man as much as he wanted.*

Esther 1:7-8 (NLT)

*On the seventh day of the feast, when King Xerxes was in high spirits because of the wine, he told the seven eunuchs who attended him… to bring Queen Vashti to him with the royal crown on her head. He wanted the nobles and all the other men to gaze on her beauty, for she was a very beautiful woman. But when they conveyed the king’s order to Queen Vashti, she refused to come. This made the king furious, and he burned with anger. He immediately consulted with his wise advisers, who knew all the Persian laws and customs, for he always asked their advice.*

Esther 1:10-13 (NLT)

*Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*

Proverbs 16:18 (NIV)

**How can I avoid pride’s destruction?**

**1. Admit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

*And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for*

*“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

1 Peter 5:5 (NLT)

**2. Submit** ­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.**

*So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.*

1 Peter 5:6 (NLT)