

# ***I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life***

## **Unit 5: Accountability**

### **Lesson 8:** Celebrate the Rewards of Accountability

#### **The Cave of Wisdom**

##### **The Cave Opening: The Burning Bush**

Celebrate the opportunities God places in our path.

Welcome back to the cave of “Celebration versus Self-esteem”. When we celebrate, it should be praising God for the opportunities He has placed in our path to enable us to grow toward the Dream He has for our lives. Wrong celebration can lead to self esteem and pride, one of the mighty weapons Satan has to use against us. One definition of self-esteem is a confidence and satisfaction in oneself. Synonyms include: ego, pride, arrogance, and self-regard. In Proverbs 16:18 we are told that “pride goes before destruction.” Would you really want people to describe you using the synonyms of self-esteem?

**Circle of Fire:** Celebrate God’s grace to us.

*Scripture: Romans 12:3* “For by the grace given me I say to you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”

**Biblical Character: The Magi**

We are fortunate to have the recording in Matthew of the actions of the three Magi toward the birth of Jesus. They set an example of celebration for us to follow. These men were obviously very wealthy based on the cost of the gifts they brought. But they did not think so highly of themselves as to put their status above that of a child born to poor parents in a manger. They could easily have had pride in their accomplishments and not considered the birth of a king to be worth the effort of the long trip. But they came and they praised the child.

Act the part of a Magi and tell the story from Matthew 2: 1-12.

Show the video “The 4<sup>th</sup> Wiseman”. Explain that in each opportunity placed in his path, the 4<sup>th</sup> Magi did the Accountability process we have studied. As a result, at the end of his life, he received the thanks of Jesus.

The video will require most of the classroom time.

***Modern Character(s):*** Tom Short Campus Ministries

Show the video: “God Reveals His Truth to the Humble” in Appendix 2, Unit 5 Celebration. In this video Tom Short makes it clear that God loves the humble, not the prideful.

**The Tribe:** God places opportunities in our path for us to fulfill His dream for our lives. Celebrate the opportunities and don't become prideful.

**Craft:** Construct a "Gragger" noise maker used at the "Feast of Purim". Explain this was used by the Israelites after Esther to celebrate their salvation from the wrath of Haman.

<http://www.heritage.org.il/innernet/archives/gragger.htm>

Gragger information

**Recreation Activity:** Using the Gragger noise makers, praise the Lord by stamping out Haman pride. *"So you despise the evil Haman and want to see his name wiped out forever? Great! Just write Haman on a piece of masking tape, stick it to the bottom of your shoe and spend the day stamping out Haman."* by Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf. Have members write "Pride" on a piece of tape, place it on the bottom of their shoe and walk around shaking their gragger.