

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**The Mind of Christ***Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 2:5-8**REVIEW**

Paul wrote Philippians for the sake of unifying the church in the enjoyment and advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unity in the gospel births communal joy that results in the advance of the gospel to the lost. As we partner together in the gospel, the result is **joy made complete**.

In 1:28-30, Paul calls the Philippian church to fear not and suffer well for the sake of Christ in the face of external hostility. In chapter two, Paul turns his attention to the threat of internal division. Satan alone is not the only enemy threatening the church; selfishness can be just as destructive.

**APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4**

Consider practical ways to apply the text of Scripture. Think about implications at the individual and corporate level remembering God's word shapes our beliefs and our behaviors.

1. Read Philippians 1:27-2:11.
2. In 2:1, Paul reminds the Philippians of who they are before exhorting them in what to do in 2:2-4. Why is it important to first remember who we are (2:1) before trying to be united (2:2)?
3. Paul's call to "do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit" is completely counter-cultural. What are some ways we're tempted toward selfishness or arrogance? How is this "celebrated" in the world?
4. Why is selfishness so destructive to a church's gospel witness?
5. What is true humility? How have you seen examples of this type of humility/looking to the interest of others in the life of Restoration Church?
6. How does our unity in humility help complete our joy as a church?

**STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8**

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Philippians 2:1-11. (Focus on verses 5-8 this week).
2. What does "this mind" refer to in verse 5? How is it "ours in Christ Jesus"?
3. Why would Paul tell the Philippians to have "this mind" if it is already theirs in Christ?
4. What does it mean that Jesus was in the form of God?
5. What does it mean that he "did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped"?
6. What does it mean that Jesus "emptied himself"?
7. What does it mean that Jesus took "the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men"?

8. How does this relate back to Paul's exhortation in verses 3-4?
9. Verse 8 says Jesus "humbled himself by becoming obedient." In what ways was Jesus obedient in his life? In his death?
10. What does obedience have to do with humility?
11. Paul is using Jesus as an example of humility in verses 8-11. But why is important to remember he is not only an example?
  
12. General Bible study questions:
  - a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
  - b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
  - c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
  - d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Are there specific areas of selfish ambition or conceit that you need to put off by putting on humility? What might that look like?