

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**The Exaltation of Christ***Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 2:9-11

## 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 2:1-4, Paul exhorts the church in Philippi cultivate unity in Christ and pursue humility like Christ. The church body is to do nothing from selfish ambition, but consider others more significant than themselves; they are to look not only to their own needs/interests, but also needs/interests of others. Specifically, Paul is addressing relationships inside the church to protect the unity and gospel witness of the church, which brings about the completion of joy. In verses 5-8, Paul shows this is exactly how Jesus Christ treated us – he emptied and humble himself.

## APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

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 2:1-11.
2. In verses 5-8, Paul paints a picture of Christ's humility. How does Christ's model of humility uniquely motivate you towards humility?
3. Specifically in this passage, we see Christ's humility by:
  - a. Not demanding his own glory
  - b. Serving others
  - c. Obeying to the point of lossNote specific ways you see these truths pictured in life of Jesus Christ?
4. How does each of these serve to help foster humility in us? Which is the hardest for you? Why?
5. What's the connection between being empty of self (humility) and full of joy in Christ?
6. Philippians 2:5-11 is thought to be an early church hymn. How does worship fuel humility and foster obedience? Why is it important to remember we don't merely work our way to humble obedience, but worship our way there?

## STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

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 9-11 this week).
2. Trace the author's flow of thought in this passage (and going back to 1:27). Specifically, how does 2:1-4 related to 1:27-30? How does 2:5-8 related to 2:1-4? How does 2:9-11 relate to verses 5-8?
3. Summarize verses 9-11 in a couple of sentences?
4. What is the "therefore" at the beginning of verse 9 based on? What does this tell us about the connection between humility and honor?
5. What does it mean "God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name over every name"?
6. Why did God do this? (Note the "so that" in verse 10).
7. What does it mean that Jesus is Lord? Refer to Isaiah 45, especially verses 22-23. How does this connect his back to verse 6 where it says Jesus "was in the form of God"?
8. How does the acknowledgement of Jesus as Lord give God the Father glory?
9. How should this truth that one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ as Lord give meaning in the day-to-day? How does it give you hope when times are hard?
10. How should this truth that one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ as Lord affect your relationships with those who don't trust in Christ?
11. 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 areas in your life in which you are resisting to humbly obey Jesus? How have your joy increased because of humble obedience?