

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**God's Role & My Role in Joy**  
*Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 2:12-14

## 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 2:5-8, Paul uses a weighty Christological hymn to motivate the Philippian church toward unity in humility for the completion of joy.

## APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

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. Why did Paul put a weighty meditation on the humility and exaltation of Jesus here in his letter to Philippians?
3. How does the exaltation of Jesus relate to the humility of Jesus?
4. What does this tell us about the place of humility and exaltation in the life of those who follow Christ?
5. How is Paul's call to refrain from selfish ambition or conceit connected to our bowing to Christ and confessing his lordship?
6. How does the Lordship of Christ give you comfort and hope?

## STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 2:12-14

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 2:12-14.
2. Notice the first word, "Therefore." How does that word help us understand the verses that follow? What would happen if we skipped this word?
3. What does "my beloved" tell us about Paul's motivation in writing these instruction?
4. What's the difference between the call to "work out" salvation and to work for salvation?
5. What does the Philippians' obedience (mentioned in verse 12) have to do with working out their salvation?
6. Why would Paul be calling the Philippians to obey? What's his motive?
7. What does it mean to do this with "fear and trembling"?
8. How does the "for" at beginning of verse 13 help us understand and apply these verses?

9. Paul says that God works to “both will and to work for his good pleasure.”
  - a. What does it mean to “will and to work” in us?
  - b. What is God’s good pleasure?
  - c. How is our working out salvation connected to God’s pleasure and our pleasure/completion of joy?
10. In your life, what is the evidence that you are actively working out your salvation?
  - a. Do you have examples of obeying the Lord when it wasn’t easy?
  - b. Are you growing the fruit of the Spirit?
  - c. Where are you actively fighting sin?
  - d. Do you regularly take time to know God daily better through his word and trust him in prayer?
  - e. Are you actively helping others follow Jesus?
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 bow to Jesus as Lord? How does the Lordship of Christ give you comfort and hope?