

SEP 15&16, 2018

GROUPS STUDY GUIDE



MAIN IDEA

Our greatest joys will come by selflessly serving others.

WELCOME 10 MINUTES

Tell the group about someone who selflessly served or serves you. How has being on the receiving end of that selfless service impacted you?

WORSHIP 10 MINUTES

When we think of worship, we tend to think of singing. However, worship is simply our response to God. Before we jump into Philippians 2, spend some time telling the group about your time in Philippians 1 this past week. What was something that stood out to you? Did the Lord show you something about your life or inspire you in some way through this passage? Finish out by having two people pray over your time in Philippians 2 today and as you continue the reading plan this week.

WORD 35 MINUTES

1. Read Philippians 2:5-11. (Don't worry we'll cover the first four verses). This passage is believed to be one of the earliest hymns sung in the Church. That's why this passage is so rich! What are your observations about what's being said?
2. What does the example of Christ teach us about how we ought to live out our faith?
3. Read Philippians 2:1-4. In verse 1, what are the five key benefits received from faith in Christ? Do you feel like you receive those benefits from your faith? Why or why not?

4. In verse 2, what's one word to describe what would bring Paul joy? Why does he say this four different ways?
5. In verses 3 and 4, what are the four commands being given? Two commands are negative and two commands are positive. Why is it important to hear how it's being said both ways?
6. What's the difference between humility and insecurity? How is it different to "count others more significant than yourselves" (ESV) out of humility rather than insecurity?
7. To the world, verses 3 and 4 do not sound like a recipe for finding joy. How is joy found in the midst of this?
8. Read Philippians 2:1-5 one more time together as a benediction.

WORKS 5 MINUTES

1. Action Challenge: Selflessly serving is like working out a muscle, it will get stronger the more you practice it correctly. If you work out a muscle incorrectly you could actually hurt yourself. The same goes with selflessly serving, if we serve others from the wrong motivation it could set us up to be hurt, angry, or resentful if it doesn't turn out how we expect. Colossians 3:23 says (paraphrase), "Whatever you do, all your heart, for the Lord, not for man." We selflessly serve to honor God. Take a moment for silent reflection on this question and then write your answer down (you don't have to share): What is one thing you could selflessly do this week or throughout this week that would bless someone and honor God?
2. Reading Challenge: Read and journal through the second chapter of Philippians this week. While reading think about (1) What is this passage saying? (2) How does this apply to my life? (3) What is the Lord trying to show me? We'll talk about some of your gleanings next week.