



# 03

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

## JOY IN HUMILITY



### THIS WEEK'S **focus**

There are many qualities that make someone a good friend—kindness, faithfulness, honesty, and wisdom are a few that come to mind. But what about humility? For many of us, humility probably isn't the first trait we think of when we consider the qualities of a good friend. But maybe it should be. In this session we will see how Jesus, who is fully God, humbled Himself by taking on human flesh. In so doing, Jesus demonstrated love for us in the most profound way. By humbling Himself in order to serve us and save us, Jesus gives us a picture of how we should love and serve our friends. Followers of Jesus find joy in following His example of humility in their relationships.



### CENTRAL **truth**

Followers of Jesus find joy in following His example of humility in their relationships.



EXPLORE

# scripture

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

## PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

**1** If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, **2** make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on

one purpose. **3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. **4** Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.

## PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

**5** Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, **6** who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. **7** Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, **8** he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—

even to death on a cross. **9** For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth— **11** and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

**12** Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and

trembling. **13** For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.

# DAILY devotions

## MEMORIZE PHILIPPIANS 2:3

### 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

## PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

### DWELL



What does it mean to be like-minded?  
What did Paul list as some of the causes of disunity?



What are some examples you've seen of like-mindedness among the Christians in your life? What are some ways you've seen disunity or conflict?

Paul knew that the church at Philippi was facing issues of disunity, so he pleaded with them to be like-minded. However, his call wasn't simply to think the same way about any old cause they chose, but to specifically be like-minded in love, and in practicing humility and selflessness. This should be the natural result that comes from our faith in Christ—we should desire more and more to put the needs of others above our own ambition.

### MEMORIZE

- Write Philippians 2:3 on a sticky note and place it somewhere you'll see it every day, like your bathroom mirror, a notebook, or inside your locker. Read it to yourself each time you see it.

### PRAY

- Pray that as God grows your faith, He would also grow your desire to be united with your fellow Christians in spirit, in thought, and in love.

day 2

# PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

## DWELL

The world would tell us that we should use every advantage we can to get ahead—our education, our networks, our money, our looks, and so on. But following Jesus teaches us about different priorities. Jesus had a greater advantage than any human who ever lived: He is the Son of the eternal, all-mighty God! But He didn't use this power to become wealthy or popular, and He didn't use it to overthrow the Roman government, like His followers expected. He "made Himself nothing" in order to serve His Father and the people He came to save.



What does Jesus' example teach us about humility?



What are some ways that you try to get ahead in life? What would it look like to act more like Jesus in these areas of your life?

## MEMORIZE

Take a slip of paper or index card and draw or write Philippians 2:3 using markers or colored pencils. Use it as a bookmark in one of your text books or notebooks this week.

## PRAY

Thank God for the good things He has given you, and pray that He would help you use these gifts and talents to further His kingdom.

day 3

# PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

## DWELL

Jesus was humble because He saw Himself primarily as a servant of His Father. All His words and actions and prayers lined up with His Father's will for Him. In response to this voluntary humility, God gave His Son a place of honor in heaven and on earth. This is completely opposite to how we generally think of humility—in our world, the people who get put into places of honor seem to be the rich and the famous, not the meek and humble. The kingdom of God takes everything we think we know and turns it upside down.



What do these verses teach us about the kind of honor that God gave to Jesus?



What kind of attitude should we have toward Jesus in our prayers and our life, according to these verses?

## MEMORIZE

Write each word from Philippians 2:3 on a different index card. Mix them up and then place them in order.

## PRAY

Thank God that we do not need to be rich or famous to be worthy of honor in His kingdom.

day 4

# PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

## DWELL

Even though Paul was the one writing encouragement to the Philippian church, when he said that they had “obeyed,” he meant that they had obeyed Christ, not Paul. He was encouraged that they continued to do so even when he could not be with them in person to encourage them, and instructed them to “work out” their salvation (v. 12)—in other words, to let their actions and their words demonstrate their salvation, since God had “worked in” them (v. 13), and would continue to do so.

← Why was it important to Paul that the Philippians had obeyed both when he was with them and when he was far away from them?

→ What are some ways that you can “work out” your salvation this week? What does this look like in your prayer life? In your relationships?

## MEMORIZE

Find a recording of Philippians 2:3 on the web, in a podcast, or on a Bible app. Listen to it every day this week.

## PRAY

Say a prayer thanking God for working in you to transform you from the inside out by His Spirit.

day 5

# PROVERBS 18:12-13

## DWELL

Humility doesn’t mean that we can’t ever share our wisdom or talents with others or that we shouldn’t be proud of what we’re capable of. God created us each to be uniquely gifted, and Jesus taught us to be wise and discerning. We are called to help guide each other with whatever wisdom we have gained. However, humility means recognizing that none of us have all the answers, and that we should listen closely to others before rushing in to speak. Being too prideful can lead to our destruction and only harms others, but using wisdom to decide when to give answers and when to simply listen—and listen well, and lovingly—is a mark of humility.

← What does it mean to have a proud heart?

↔ Why is it important to listen to others before we give answers, opinions, or advice?

## MEMORIZE

Practice reciting Philippians 2:3 from memory with a friend or family member. Ask them to follow along as you recite, and prompt you with words from the verse if you need help remembering.

## PRAY

Think back to a time you spoke before you listened. Ask God to help you learn from this experience and teach you how to listen more closely to others.