

joy / full

a study in philippians

GROUP GUIDE

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature^[a] God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

The God Who Stoops // December 8, 2024

1. Read Philippians 2:5-8. Paul seems to suggest that God's character was most revealed when Jesus came to earth and lowered himself to the point of death.
2. When you think of God, what images come to mind? How do they contrast with (or flesh out) the image of a God who stoops?
3. Besides Jesus' death, what stories of sacrifice have impacted you? It could be the sacrifices of your parent(s), spouse, or teacher, a touching book or film, a historical figure, or something else entirely.
4. In verse 5, Paul tells us to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, the one who lowered himself willingly. What might this look like in practice? How can we "stoop" in the same way that God "stooped" for us?
5. Read Philippians 2:9-11, then read Isaiah 45:20-25. Note how Paul takes language that was previously reserved for Yahweh, the God of Israel, and applies it to Jesus himself.
6. When you find a connection like this, what's your typical response? Boredom? Curiosity? Confusion? Share why you think this is the case.
7. We are often content with simply discussing Scripture, but Paul's intention is for people to *worship and praise Jesus*. How quickly and/or frequently do you create space to simply praise Jesus? What prevents you from doing so?
8. As a group, spend time simply praising Jesus. This could look like singing worship songs together. It could also look like praying by describing attributes of God (i.e. "God, you are more loving than we dare to imagine").



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[LEADERS NOTES]

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOW JESUS

- centralheights.ca/followjesus

STORIES

- We love hearing how God moves in people's lives. If you or anyone in your group has a story and would be willing to share, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you. You can share your story by emailing stories@centralheights.ca

MESSAGE Video and Audio can be found at:

<https://www.centralheights.ca/currentseries>