



from the inside out

Week 4 Home Study: Rejoice – Phil 2

MEMORY VERSE

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:5-8

BASIC STUDY

QUESTION 1

Read Philippians 2. Afterwards, review the Class Notes. Be sure and note anything you want to bring up in small group.

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QUESTION 2

Examine the word “mind” in verses 1:27, 2:2-5, 3:15 and 4:2 on your Scripture Handout. What is Paul teaching us about our minds?

According to Philippians 2:5-8 what is the mind of Christ like? Make a list of each trait of Christ and jot down how that trait of Christ affects your life.

QUESTION 3

What are some practical ways that you can treat others better than yourselves (Verses 3-4)?

How would you accomplish this with your competitors if you were a business owner?

How would you accomplish this with someone who has committed a crime?

Do you treat your Spouse? Children? Parents? Enemies as better than yourselves?

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QUESTION 4:

How do we “work out our own salvation” in verse 12? The word “work out” means “carry to completion.” Look to the surrounding verses for an answer. Who is doing the work within us?

DEEPER STUDY

QUESTION 5

Who is Jesus? There are four “great” passages in the Bible that summarize who Jesus is. Philippians 2:5-11, Colossians 1:9-23 and John 1:1-18 and Hebrews 1. Read these scriptures and record what they teach us about Jesus.

When we become Christians, we “sign up” to be slaves of Christ and each other. How do these passages change the way you live?

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QUESTION 6

Paul said that he was “being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith” Philippians 2:17. Libation here refers to the “drink offerings” which were a particular type of sacrifice in the Old Testament. Read about them in Numbers 15:1-16. How is Paul’s sacrifice like that of a drink offering?

In Numbers 15:15-16, we are told the offering covers not only the Jews, but those who dwell with them. How does Paul’s sacrifice have meaning for himself and others?

QUESTION 7

In Philippians 2:19-30, whose lives and ministries does Paul praise? And what does he say about them?

Paul taught and demonstrated throughout his letters that encouraging each other is very important. This is because encouraging others takes a lot of wisdom and tough love – or the wrong message can be sent – hurting those doing good or enabling those doing badly. Sometimes people who act like encouragers are actually manipulators. How do we keep our encouragement real and honest? Is it possible to encourage with an attitude of “I am better than you” rather than as a humble servant? What does verse 21 tell us?

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SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP

DISCUSSION (9:45AM – 10:40AM)

- 9:45 am (5 min) – Say or read the memory verse together. Read the whole scripture.
- 9:50 am (10 min) – Does anyone have anything in particular that they wanted to discuss about the lesson this week?
- 10:00 am (10 min) – In Philippians 2:5-11, Paul is answering the bickering spirit that has a grasp on the Philippian church. How does he tell them to fix it? How can we fix problems with our children, our spouses, our friends, and in our church with this advice?
- 10:10 am (10 min) – In Philippians 2:19-3:1, Paul shows us how to encourage one another. Have you ever encouraged someone, but were actually trying to manipulate them instead? Have you ever encouraged someone when you were actually thinking the opposite was true? Have you ever encouraged someone when you were doing it out of feeling superior to them? We are commanded to encourage each other, but we need to be careful that in doing so we neither tell white lies NOR give encouragement where God has given us none to give. Both can damage God’s work. What does Paul say in verse 20-21 that should inform how we encourage people? How can you offer appropriate encouragement to your children, your husband, your pastors, your friends?
- 10:20 am (20 min) -- Ask “what has God been doing in your life this week?” Pray for each other.
- 10:39 am (1 min) -- Close by saying the Philippians Prayer:

*Dear God, May our love abound more and more with knowledge and full discernment; so that we may choose the things that are excellent, so that in the day of Christ we may be sincere and blameless, being filled with the fruits of righteousness that come through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.
Amen*