



## Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!

If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions towards the end of the document.

- These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders.
- Use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation, as the needs and culture are different for each group.

## Outline

- I. Introduction and Main Scripture Readings
- II. Group Discussion Questions
- III. The Journey Resources
- IV. Support for the Leader

## How to Use These Study Guides:

1. **Before the meeting:** Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
2. **Check-In:** Begin each meeting with a short time checking in with one another.
3. **Read Scripture:** You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
4. **Ask Questions:** Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with and see how the conversation flows.
5. **End with Prayer:** Be sure to set aside time to share prayer requests and pray together.

*If your group meets over Zoom:*

- Expect to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom. Keep meetings shorter than they would be in person.

## Group Leader Support:

- Please reach out to your Campus Pastor if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic.
- If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor [Tim Ghali](#) or [Kathryn Morris](#) from the Group Life team.

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## LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

for Sermon given on June 9, 2024  
by Pastor David Morreale

### PARTNERS IN HUMILITY – Philippians 2:1-13



#### I. Introduction

We are making our way through our series, Dear Church, and walking through a letter in the Bible that Paul wrote to the Philippians. For those of you joining us for the first time, this is the third week in the series. In our first week, we talked about Paul's message to be partners in the gospel, then we talked about his encouragement to be partners in courage, and this week, he calls us to be partners in humility.

**Questions:** How can we live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ?

**Bottom Line:** We fulfill God's good purpose and pleasure as revealed in Jesus by living out the self-emptying, voluntary, sacrificial love for the sake of the world.

Let's begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

**Main Scripture Readings:** Philippians 2:1-13

**2** Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my

joy complete by *being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind*. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. *Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

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

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

## II. Group Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor David mentioned that both he and his wife, Kaitlyn, chose Philippians 2:1-13 to be read at their wedding to set the tone for their marriage: to be of one mind and to always be putting the other first.

- Share with your group any Scripture that was used at significant event or moment in your life (such as a graduation, wedding, baptism, or a special moment in your life).
- Why did you find so impactful about that passage?

2. Paul wrote this letter to the Philippian church, in part, to address the selfish ambition and self-centered rivalry among church leaders that had caused disagreements and divisions within the church.

- Where do we see self-centered rivalry and arrogance or “empty glory” in our own lives?
- Where do we see it as a cause for division at work, at home, or at church?

3. What immediately comes to mind when you hear the word HUMILITY?

- How do you prioritize other’s needs over your own? Or look out for the interest of others?
- How is this humility viewed by our current society and culture?

4. Read Phil 2:2-4 together:

*<sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*

- In Verses 2-3; what does Paul mean when he says to be of “one mind”?
- In Verses 3-4; how is Paul defining humility?
- Have each member of your small group share one example of how they can demonstrate humility this week.

5. Read Phil 2:5-6 together:

*<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

*<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature <sup>[a]</sup> God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

- Let's break verse 6 is to two parts:
    - What is verse 6 saying by "*Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God*",... or ..."*equality with God*"? What is the nature of God?
    - Explain what verse 6 is saying by "*did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*". Other translations read: "something to be grasped at" or "exploited" to gain power.
6. Jesus, being in the "*very nature of God*," "*equality with God*" (Reiterate points of the nature of God that you discussed earlier) did not "consider" he didn't even "think" about using his equality with God it to his own advantage!
- Jesus is the perfect example of how to live a Christ-like life, how is he telling us to live here in this passage?
  - Can you give a personal example or one you read about where someone in a position of power or authority humbled themselves to serve others?

### ***Final Takeaway:***

Our nature is to be self-centered, to get caught up in the world's values of personal success, wealth and status. But we need a place where we can come together to *unlearn* what our culture teaches us and to continually *relearn* and grow in what it means to have the same mind that was in Christ: *self-emptying, voluntarily sacrificial love*. We need a cruciform community to help us to reshape our mindset. If you are not already part of a small group, please go to: <https://www.grace.org/groups/> to find a group to get started.

### ***Let's Pray***

## **III. The Journey**



*We're all on a journey. Where is yours taking you?*

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it's not just good for us, it is good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn't come from just hearing the words of Jesus. It comes from putting them into practice.

Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The **with-God life** of our personal habits and routines;
- The **with-others life** of our genuine and life-changing relationships; and
- The **for-the-world life** that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families, into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

#### Launching by the end of September: The newly, revised Discipleship Planning Tool

We invite your group to [take the assessment](#) and to spend a session to share about the practice and perspective you chose to focus on for the next three months.

## IV. Support for the Leader

These Teaching Points are provided to help the group leader make connections from the message to their group with both insights from the Biblical text and opportunities in the life of our church.

### **Teaching Points:**

- Philippians 2:1-13 is about Paul's concern to unify the church -- to shepherd them into a spirit of humility through the example of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- In Rick Warren's *The Purpose Drive Life*, he defines humility as "Not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less."