

Group Devotional Study for Women – Philippians 2:5-11

Open

Who was a real-life hero to you while you were a kid? Why did you look up to that person?

Read – Philippians 2:5-11

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

⁶ Who, being in very nature 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 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.

Discuss

1. This is one of the earliest recorded Christian songs! What did Jesus do, according to the story of these ancient lyrics?
2. How does this describe the relationship Jesus has with God the Father?
3. Was Jesus less divine (truly God) because of what He did? Was Jesus forced to do this?
4. What happened as a result of the way Jesus conducted Himself?
5. How does this help you know what it means to be a wife and to perform your role in a family?

Group Devotional Study for Men – John 13:1-17

Open

Who was a real-life hero to you while you were a kid? Why did you look up to that person?

Read – John 13:1-17

¹It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Discuss

1. What did Jesus do in this story?
2. How does Jesus challenge the disciples' view of being a great leader?
3. Jesus said "I have set you an example" by doing this. What attributes of His should we follow?
4. Jesus knew what He would do only a few days after this event (v.1). How does that upcoming action deepen the way you understand Jesus' teaching about leadership here?
5. How does this help you know what it means to be a husband and to perform your role in a family?