



Primary Text: Philippians 2:14-17

1. Pray (2 mins)

Pause. Acknowledge you are about to open God’s word.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word.

2. Warm-Up (15 mins)

Read Philippians 2:1-17.

- What have we learned about the book of Philippians (author, theme, purpose)?
- Can anyone give us a “play-by-play” of how we arrived at this current text? What has Paul taught us in his letter to the Philippians up to this point?
- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what is the one thing that most resonated with you?

3. Illuminate (35 mins)

On the reverse side of this page you will find our text. Take a few minutes to circle the words or phrases that speak to you.

- Share; what are your initial thoughts about this text?
- We are children of God. Truthfully, we often “talk back” to God as do children to authority. This is an ugly sinful behavior. How do we make war against his behavior?
- God, through Paul’s words, does not want us to look like the world, “crooked and twisted”. His remedy is to hold fast to the word of life. Would you say you know anyone who truly holds fast to the word? Do you find them to be a complainer/argumentative or more blameless/innocent?
- Paul often uses terminology that might cause us to look to the Old Testament for better understanding, what two OT references does Paul make in this text and why are they important?
- The truths of the Bible are meant to be shared. Given the opportunity, could you explain this text to someone else? Anyone brave enough to try it now?

4. Pray (10 mins)

Rather than take prayer requests, let’s bring our requests to God through prayer. Let’s talk to Him.

How to Pray?

- Acknowledge that he is God (He is holy).
- Acknowledge that we need Him (We are sinful)
- Thank Him for how he has provided for you (He is faithful)
- Cast your cares upon Him (He hears us)
- Ask that His will be done (His will is truly what is best for us)

Reference Text: Philippians 2:1-13

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.