

"Joy In The Everyday: The Way of The Exemplar"

Growth Group Guide

June 28, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

In Creation, what are some dependent, symbiotic relationships that exist in it? What good comes from them? What would happen if each thing had to function without the other? How is that like our relationship with Jesus?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer, asking the Spirit to be fully a part of your conversation today. Praise the Father that He gave us Jesus, our brother, as the first in the family to give all of Himself in surrender to God's will. Thank Him that Jesus then is our power, by the Spirit, to walk joyfully in the same way.

Philippians 2:8 & Ephesians 7:25a (ESV) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ... Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him...

"I bow at the feet of Him who was dead, and is now alive forever and ever. I exalt Him, I yield myself to Him, for He is worth of the total response of my entire being: 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.'" (Myers, Ruth. 31 Days of Praise. Day 4. Kindle Edition.)

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. **Read Romans 8:5-7** in the ESV. Before becoming Christians ("in the flesh"), we can only live fleshly ("according to the flesh"). Once we become Christians ("in the Spirit"), we have a choice: live fleshly or spiritually ("according to the Spirit"). Based on these verses, further describe the experience of a fleshly Christian vs. a spiritual Christian. What do you think about the idea that the spiritual Christian is meant to be the normal Christian experience for all Christians?
2. **Read Philippians 2:5-11.** This passage puts Jesus forward as our exemplar (i.e., typical model to follow). These verses describe Him, but we're meant to adopt what we find in them. When we do, it can move us from life predominately lived from the flesh to life lived largely from the Spirit. Based on Romans 8:5-7, why is this important?
3. **Read Philippians 2:5-7 again.** We see Jesus's mode of operation as a man was to live in complete dependence on His Father. Why is it important to understand this before diving into the actions Jesus did?
4. Paul says Jesus emptied Himself. This means He voluntarily limited Himself from acting independently from His nature and attributes as God. To not act independently, is to not act fleshly. How is this applicable to us? And why would it be important for us to act as Jesus did in dependence on His power in and through us?

5. In v7, Paul shares that Jesus added "servant" to who He was. This meant He went from the highest place as God to the lowest servant. He gave up His legitimate exalted position and all rights to be entirely at Father's disposal. Living fleshly, we seek to exalt ourselves and demand our rights. **Read Philippians 2:8.** Paul says Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient, which is ranking Himself under God. How does this fit with the model of dependence, and how does it change your view of what's usually thought of as humility?
6. Even though this may be scary, what are meaningful reasons to follow His example? What sort of things give us pause in doing this?
7. To follow Jesus' example involves a once-for-all decision to cut from the flesh. Once made, we approach each future decision as an opportunity to affirm it and chose to live from the Spirit. Why is this singular definitive cut needed? Why is it beneficial to be able to point back to it vs. handling situations on a case-by-case basis?

WALK *(Living out God's purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Living dependent like Jesus is to relinquish our rights, expectations, and independence, and to entrust ourselves to God, placing ourselves entirely at His disposal.** If you are willing to walk the road of dependence like Jesus did, look at the prayer following. Today pray, date, and sign it. Point back to it anytime you're tempted to go to the flesh as the answer and to live after it.

Father, choosing an attitude of joyful dependence like Jesus, I decide today to cut from fleshly living as my primary source for living. I give up my rights and expectations and refuse to live in dependence. I entrust myself to You and place myself entirely at Your disposal. As I cooperate with you, I trust you to grow in living spiritually dependent on Jesus' life in and through me, in your way and timing. Thank you for the joy that lies ahead for me as I come to understand and experience Jesus as my life. In Jesus' name, Amen. (Sign _____ Date _____)

WORLD *(Embracing God's heart for others)*

Recently, Evergreen Network had the privilege of hosting 46 campus pastors and leaders from the 14 campuses of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY. These leaders were spending the week in the PNW to better understand the unique culture, challenges, and opportunities of ministry in our region as they prepare to send teams from their campuses here in the future. We are praying with expectation for what God will do in the years ahead through this growing commitment to proximity, learning, and mission together. Join us in prayer for our partnership with Southeast Christian and for the other church planting projects getting ready to launch: E. Portland, Kamloops (B.C.), Corvallis, and S. Salem. Ask God to continue to provide capable laborers for the harvest and that the harvest would be ripe right here in our own PNW. (From the Evergreen Network May Update Newsletter.)

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