

Discussion Guide on Philippians 2:5-11

The following is a suggested discussion guide for you to use with your family, small group, or Sunday Morning Bible Study as we walk through the book of Philippians. Feel free to use what is helpful in this guide to lead you in discussion.

Introduction

Have people in your group share their favorite hymn, and ask what it is about that hymn that has impacted their life – is there a certain line in the hymn that is meaningful, or a memory you have from singing this hymn?

Share that today's lesson comes from Philippians 2:5-11, and many scholars believe that it is a hymn Paul uses (one that must have been influential for him and for others in the early church) to tell us more about the nature of Christ.

Video

Watch the video for Philippians 2:5-11, which can be found at www.mbbc.org/home-church

Discussion

1. Read Philippians 2:5-8 again as a group.

Ask others what stands out to them in this passage about Jesus. **What does it mean that Jesus emptied Himself and made Himself nothing?** How do we see this in His birth? In His life? In His death? If you need other Scriptural references, consider reading John 1:1-18 and Isaiah 52:13-53:12 as a group to learn more about this emptying.

2. Read Philippians 2:9-11 again as a group.

Ask others what stands out to them in this passage. Jesus, who made Himself low, is elevated by God the Father, exalted, and given the name Lord! Point out that Paul isn't suggesting that we have false humility so that others will elevate us. This is a passage about Jesus, and about the certainty that one day, every knee will bow before Him and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.

Point out the practical nature of this theological lesson. As Paul writes to a church facing discord, he encourages them to have the same mindset that Jesus had, in order to promote unity and to focus on their mission to make the gospel known.

What would it mean for us to have this same mindset that was in Christ Jesus – that though He was equal to God, He made Himself nothing (see Philippians 2:5-11)? What would it look like for us, as Christians, to live in this way? How would this impact our unity (see Philippians 2:1-4)? How would this impact our church? Our world?