

Seek First

The Kingdom of God

CHRISTLIKE HUMILITY

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The Chapel

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PERSONAL STUDY

Directions: Use this for your personal devotion time and/or to prepare for your Small Group discussion.

Scripture Passage: Philippians 2:1-11

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

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."

SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

Directions: Read the passage and record your observations.

1. What is the "big idea" of the passage? _____

Seek First

The Kingdom of God

2. What main life application question does the passage address/answer? _____

3. What is one way you can apply it this week? _____

GROUP STUDY _____

Directions: Use **BOTH** the personal and group questions for your group's discussion.

OPENER – Share a situation where you faced a challenge in displaying Christlike humility. What were the results?

Q1 – Why do we need Humility?

- a. Discuss the negative impact of selfish ambition, vain conceit, and self-centeredness.
 - Share a time when putting your own interests first affected a relationship (at work, home, or in your community)? What happened? Looking back, how might practicing humility have changed things?
- b. Coach Gailey (Sports Illustrated example) said, "You are either humble or you will be humbled." Do you agree with his quote?
 - Has there been a time when you learned this lesson? If so, share.

Q2 – How can we model Humility?

- a. Philippians 2:5 says, "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." Pastor Dave explained how our mindset guides our behavior. Describe your mindset? How has it affected your actions?
- b. Jesus chose to give up everything to serve others (read verses 6-11 and 2 Cor. 8:9). What's your reaction to this idea? How would you explain this concept to a non-believer?
- c. Discuss the research findings on how wealth and power often result in mean behavior; and contrast that with Christ's model of humility. Have you seen this behavior first-hand?

Seek First

The Kingdom of God

Q3 - How can we practice Humility?

- a. Consider how pride destroys relationships, and how humility helps restore them. How has someone helped you become more aware of others' needs?
 - What's one small step you could take this week to prioritize someone else's needs over your own? Who could help keep you accountable?
- b. Pastor Dave quoted a member of his group who described an executive who successfully revived struggling companies by listening to and serving his employees.
 - Who's the best leader or mentor you've had? What things did they do to show they valued others?
 - In your current role (at work, home, church, or community), what's one way you could better listen to and serve those around you this week?
- c. Bible Scholar NT Wright, when asked, said his last words on his deathbed would be, "Look at Jesus." What might your last words be?
 - Who in your life needs to hear this message? What's stopping you from sharing it?