

LIFE GROUP notes

26 November

Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Joy in Christ – week 3



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member how to glorify God by serving others?
2. How does Paul explain humility in v.3 – 4? (**Value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests, but each of you to the interests of others.**)
3. What is Paul's encouragement in v.5? (**In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.**)
4. What does v.6 tell us about Jesus' humility? (**He did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage.**)



Let's go deeper

5. How did Jesus demonstrate His humility according to v.7? (**He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant.**)
6. What was Jesus' greatest demonstration of His humility? (**v.8; He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death; death on a cross.**)
7. How did God the Father honour Jesus in v.9? (**God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name.**)
8. What does v.10 – 11 tell us about Jesus? (**That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.**)



Let's apply this

9. **Philippians 2:10 – 11**; Therefore, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, **to the glory of God the Father.**

How did Jesus bring glory to God? He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. He valued others (the world) above Himself.

- How can you value, serve and bless others this week to the glory of God?
- Is there anything that the Holy Spirit told you to do that you have not done?
- As you humble yourself before God this week, allow Him to exalt you?

SUMMARY:

Joy in Christ: Week 3

Read: Philippians 2:1 – 11

v.1 – 2; Paul is going to talk about unity and humility and he starts with believers' relationship with Jesus. He reminds them that from our relationship and unity with Christ we receive encouragement, comfort, love, tenderness, and compassion. And then Paul says that from this unity with Christ believers should be like-minded, have the same love for each other, and be one in spirit and mind.

v.3 – 4; The secret to unity and joy is found in **v.3**; do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others. Paul wanted the church to see that the basic cause for disunity is selfishness, and the cause of selfishness is pride. And that the answer to unity and humility is when believers focus on the needs and interests of others.

v.5 – 6; How did Jesus bring glory to God? And how can we bring glory to God? Jesus did not think of Himself, but of others. Paul stated that Jesus was "equal with God." John 1:1 – 4; Colossians 1:15; and Hebrews 1:1 – 3 also state that Jesus Christ is God **v.6** says that Jesus did not consider His equality with God as "something selfishly to be held on to." Jesus did not think of Himself; He thought of others. His attitude was that of unselfish concern for others. This is "the mind of Christ," an attitude that says, "I cannot keep my privileges for myself, I must use them for others; and to do this, I will gladly lay them aside and pay whatever price is necessary."

v.7; Jesus served. Jesus did not pretend to be a servant; He was not an actor playing a role. He was a servant! This was the true expression of His innermost nature. He was the God-Man, Deity and humanity united in one, and He came as a servant.

v.8; Jesus sacrifices. Many people are willing to serve others if it does not cost them anything. But if there is a price to pay, they suddenly lose interest. **v.8**; tells us that; Jesus "became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." He willingly laid down His life as the Saviour of the world, for the sins of the world.

v.9 – 11; Jesus glorified God. This is the great goal of all that we do, to glorify God. Paul warns against "vainglory" in v.3. The kind of rivalry and comparison that puts believer against believer and ministry against ministry and it is not spiritual, nor is it satisfying. It is vain, and empty. Jesus humbled Himself for others, and God highly exalted Him; and the result of this exaltation is glory to God.

As Jesus faced the cross, the glory of the Father was in His mind: "Father, the hour is come; glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You." (John 17:1). Joy in Christ comes not only from helping others, but from knowing that we are glorifying God.