



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE

11/15/2017

BIBLE PASSAGE

Philippians 2:1-11

1. KNOW THE CONTEXT

The letter to the Philippians was written by the apostle Paul while in prison by the Roman government. The church of Philippi was especially significant for Paul because it was the first church he founded in Europe and also because the church was thriving and he wanted to encourage them in what they were doing. Paul begins his letter by thanking God for the Philippians and also letting them know that the message of Jesus will still advance even while he is in prison. In Chapter 2, Paul points them to Jesus as the example of the kind of humility they should have with one another.

2. READ THE BIBLE PASSAGE TOGETHER

3. SPEND TIME IN OBSERVATION

Which verses, ideas, or characters stuck out to you?
What questions could come from this passage?

Observation notes:

Questions:

4. SPEND TIME IN INTERPRETATION

What did this passage mean to the original audience?

What would it have felt like to be a character in this passage, and who in the passage is the hero/role model (if any)?

What's the main point of this passage?

| Questions | Answers |
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| Why would it make Paul so happy for them to agree with each other? | Paul knew that division in the church was one of the greatest threats they could face. Nothing was more important in the early church than working together toward a common goal and being of the same mind. |
| What does "he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to," mean? | Even though Jesus was God, he willingly gave up his status and privileges as God to become a person. He had to give up lots of things to take on human form and had to experience the worst parts of being human! |
| What do you think it was like for Jesus to give up his divine privileges? | Of course we don't know what it's actually like, but we can never forget what a big deal it is that God decided to become a human and to experience death. If I were God, I wouldn't want to give up my status! |
| How is it possible for Jesus to obey God? | The Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is a complex topic! Each member (or person) is God, but is distinct as well. They exist together in perfect relationship, but each have their own role -so Jesus obeys the Father to keep the roles and relationship perfect. |
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5. SPEND TIME IN APPLICATION

What is the "universal truth" God wants to teach us from this passage?

How can we apply the message of this passage to our daily lives?

- Is it a challenge for you to not be selfish and to think of others before yourself? Why is that so hard?
- What are some ways that you could practically take an interest in others this week?
- What significance does it have for you that Jesus gave up His Godly privileges to die on a cross for you? How might reminding yourself of that change the way you live this week?

6. PRAY

Follow-up notes: