

Joy to the World! Serve Others

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ²Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. ³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:1-11

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- When you hear the word Humility, what is the first thing that comes to mind?
- Why do you think we have become so selfish and self-centered as a culture?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How have you seen unity advance the gospel through the local church? How have you seen disunity harm the advancement of the gospel in the local church?
- Why do passages like Phil 2:3 often cause us to get uncomfortable and defensive?
- How does serving others bring true Joy? Can you think of a time where you experienced joy as a result of serving?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- In the message, Pastor Lane made the statement about verse 5: "In other words, Paul says treat people the way Jesus treats you." How would the church doing that affect how the world views the church?
- Read Philippians 2:5-8. What does it look like to have the same attitude as Christ Jesus had? How do we apply that to our relationships with other people?
- As Christians we must remember life isn't about us, it's about the Kingdom of God. It's about people knowing Jesus and having a relationship with Him. How can we resist the urge to be selfish and live for God instead?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank you that Jesus didn't cling to His divine rights, but instead emptied Himself and became one of us so that we could have relationship with you. Help us me to have the same attitude as Jesus, especially in my relationship with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Find a way to serve others to help you combat selfishness.
- Seek the restoration of a broken or damaged relationship. Put Philippians 2:5 into practice with them, and see how God begins to work in that relationship.