

Small Group Discussion Guide — December 8, 2019

- Series: Humility
 - Sermon: Freedom in Humility
 - Scripture: Philippians 2: 5-11, James 4: 6-8 (NLT)
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:

How did you experience “God with us” this week? Did he attract your attention through a circumstance, conversation, or thought, and how did you perceive it as coming from God?

CONNECT:

What images or thoughts come to mind when you hear the word “freedom”?

ENGAGE:

1. Read Philippians 2: 5-8 (NLT).
 - What does Paul mean by, “he did not think of equality with God something to cling to,” and what does this say about the attitude of Jesus?
 - How did Jesus take the position of a slave? What were the limits to His obedience to God?
 - Given that Jesus was divine (equal with God), what could His earthly life have looked like? How does His choice to be humble in all ways affect your response to Him?
2. Read Philippians 2: 9-11.
 - What was God’s response to Jesus’ humility?
 - What should be our response to the name of Jesus?
3. Read James 4: 6-8 (NLT).
 - Why do you think God opposes the proud? What is wrong with pride?
 - What is the significance here of “grace”? What is its relationship to humility?
 - How are verses 7 & 8 both an invitation and a promise?

APPLY:

1. The seemingly simple concept “It’s not about me” is challenging to live out in reality. Where do you struggle most with understanding that life is about something bigger than yourself?
2. We said that grasping for power leads to bondage, while submitting in humility to God leads to true freedom. Why are we so tempted to demand our rights, and why is it so hard to give up our power? What does this suggest about where we’re really putting our faith?
3. What are some practical ways you can “have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had” on a daily basis? Think of people in your life who are challenging, needy, or broken. How can you show them the love of Christ, understanding that Jesus’ purposes and kingdom are bigger than you? (Feel free to discuss if this feels really hard.)
4. As you humbly serve Christ in your everyday life (see #3), how do you see this bringing you freedom? What does that freedom actually look like?

PRAY:

Father, thank you that You showed us what real humility looks like in the way Jesus lived on earth. Our tendency is to demand our rights, often at the expense of other people. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to understand that life isn't all about us - it's about You. And show us that, through humility, we will find true freedom to be who You created us to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING DEEPER

1. How does having healthy self-awareness lead us to humility? Does humility mean we have to think less of ourselves? How does our identity as *children of God* factor into this idea?
2. Read Matthew 25: 31-40. What does this passage teach us about quiet, and perhaps anonymous, service to others who cannot repay us? Do you have time and space in your life for this kind of humble living, and if not, how can you make room for it?
3. Read Isaiah 53. How does this description of Jesus square with the idea that He is the promised Messiah and King? If we are followers of Jesus, what should be our expectation of recognition or honor? What does His example mean for you?