

## **Bible Study Guide: Philippians 2:3–4**

### **Theme: Rejecting Selfishness**

### **Short Explanation**

Humility places others before ourselves and strengthens unity. Paul challenges believers to move away from selfish ambition and pride, choosing instead to serve others with the same attitude demonstrated by Christ.

### **Opening Scripture**

#### **Philippians 2:3–4 (NIV)**

*"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 the others."*

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### **Introduction**

We live in a culture that often encourages us to put ourselves first, pursue personal success, and focus on our own desires. Yet Paul presents a radically different way of living. He calls believers to reject selfishness and embrace humility.

Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. It is choosing to value others, serve others,

and seek the good of others. This attitude creates unity in families, churches, workplaces, and communities.

Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. Though He was God, He willingly served others and sacrificed Himself for our salvation.

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## **Study Point 1: Identify Selfish Ambition**

### **Key Scripture**

#### **James 3:16**

*"For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice."*

### **Discussion**

Selfish ambition is the desire to promote ourselves at the expense of others. It often shows up through competition, jealousy, pride, and the need for recognition.

Paul says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition." That means our motives matter just as much as our actions.

### **Bible Example**

King Saul became consumed with jealousy when others praised David. His selfish ambition damaged relationships and weakened his leadership.

## Questions

1. What are some signs of selfish ambition in daily life?
2. Why can selfish motives be destructive to relationships?
3. How can we examine our motives honestly?

## Application

Ask God to reveal areas where pride or selfishness may be influencing your decisions.

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## Study Point 2: Choose Humility

### Key Scripture

#### 1 Peter 5:5

*"Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another."*

### Discussion

Humility is a choice. Paul says believers should "value others above yourselves."

Humility doesn't mean seeing yourself as worthless. It means recognizing the value God has placed on others and treating them accordingly.

## **Bible Example**

John the Baptist demonstrated humility when he said, "He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:30).

## **Questions**

1. What does true humility look like?
2. Why is humility often difficult?
3. How does humility strengthen relationships?

## **Application**

Look for one practical way this week to honor someone else before seeking recognition for yourself.

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## **Study Point 3: Consider the Needs of Others**

### **Key Scripture**

#### **Galatians 6:2**

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

### **Discussion**

Paul encourages believers not only to look after their own interests but also the interests of others.

This means paying attention to the needs, struggles, and concerns of those around us.

## **Bible Example**

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) interrupted his own plans to care for a wounded stranger.

## **Questions**

1. What keeps us from noticing the needs of others?
2. How can we become more attentive to people around us?
3. What burdens might someone near you be carrying today?

## **Application**

Take time this week to encourage, help, or pray for someone who may be struggling.

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## **Study Point 4: Follow the Example of Jesus**

### **Key Scripture**

#### **Mark 10:45**

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

## **Discussion**

Immediately after Philippians 2:3–4, Paul points believers to Christ as the perfect example of humility.

Jesus left the glory of heaven, washed His disciples' feet, served others, and ultimately gave His life on the cross.

## **Bible Example**

Jesus Christ washing the disciples' feet (John 13) is one of the greatest demonstrations of servant leadership.

## **Questions**

1. What impresses you most about Jesus' humility?
2. How does His example challenge modern ideas of success?
3. What would it look like to serve like Jesus this week?

## **Application**

Choose one act of service that can be done quietly without expecting recognition.

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## **Study Point 5: Humility Creates Unity**

### **Key Scripture**

**Ephesians 4:2–3**

*"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

## **Discussion**

Humility is one of the strongest foundations for unity. Pride divides, but humility brings people together.

When believers value others, listen well, forgive quickly, and serve willingly, relationships flourish.

## **Bible Example**

The early church in Acts 2 demonstrated unity by caring for one another and sharing what they had.

## **Questions**

1. How does pride damage unity?
2. What role does humility play in healthy churches and families?
3. How can you help promote unity in your sphere of influence?

## **Application**

Seek reconciliation where pride may have created distance in a relationship.

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## Key Takeaways

- Selfish ambition creates division and disorder.
  - Humility values others and strengthens relationships.
  - Believers are called to care about the needs of others.
  - Jesus is the ultimate example of servant-hearted humility.
  - Unity grows when God's people put others before themselves.
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## Weekly Challenge

Every morning pray:

*"Lord, help me reject selfishness and embrace humility. Open my eyes to the needs of others. Help me serve like Jesus and build unity wherever I go. Amen."*

## Memory Verse

### Philippians 2:3–4

*"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 the others."*