



WEEK 2 GROUP GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Because God has exalted the name of Jesus above every name, all of creation is called to bow in reverence and confess his lordship.

Passage: Philippians 2:9–11

IN THE TEXT

Read Philippians 2:9–11 aloud before beginning the discussion questions.

1. Paul says God gave Jesus “the name” — not “a name.” What do you notice about that distinction? What do you think “the name” is pointing to, and why would Paul use a definite article rather than an indefinite one?
2. Look at the three-tier phrase in verse 10: in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. Who or what do you think Paul is including in that list — and what does the scope of that claim suggest about the authority of this name?
3. Verses 9–11 are the result of something. Read the word Therefore at the opening of verse 9, then read verses 6–8 to find what it follows from. What is the connection between the descent described in verses 6–8 and the exaltation in verses 9–11 — and what does that connection tell you about the kind of name this is?

GETTING STARTED

When you hear someone say “Jesus is Lord” — in a song, in a conversation, in a sermon — what do you actually picture? What does that phrase land like for you right now, in this season of your life?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This week we discovered that the name God gave Jesus at his exaltation is not a title but an identification — the divine name YHWH itself, the name the priests would not speak aloud and the Septuagint translators considered too weighty to render directly. Before this week, how would you have described what the name of Jesus carries? Has anything shifted — and if so, what moved it?
2. Pastor Bruce named something honest on Sunday — that there are times he has used the name of Jesus as a talking point, a way to appear more spiritual, a way to bring attention to himself. Most of us recognize that pattern in some form. As you listen to one another this week, where do you hear the gap between carrying the name and bearing its weight showing up most commonly — not in culture generally, but in the lives of people in this room, including your own?
3. Steven Sample’s distinction between being president and doing president maps directly onto what Paul is pressing in Philippians 2. There are people who want to be Christians — the identity, the community, the public persona. And then there are people who want to do what Jesus did — descend, serve, move toward need at personal cost. As a group, what would it look like for this specific community — not Christians generally, but the people in this room — to move from carrying the name to bearing its weight in the next thirty days?

SHARED RESPONSE

The universe has a standing appointment to bow before this name. The question is what we do with it between now and then. Go around the room. Each person answers: Name one specific, concrete way you will carry the name of Jesus differently this week — and name one person in this room who can ask you about it next Wednesday. Write the names down. Follow up.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Pray for one another’s stated commitments by name. Close with Philippians 2:10–11 read aloud together as a confession.