

eGroup Discussion Guide

October 4, 2020

PRAY

Begin your time together with an opening prayer or praise reports from a past prayer time. Choose someone from the group to pray for your time together. Acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit, who serves as our Teacher. 1 Peter 3:12, *"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer."*

OBSERVE

Read your selected passage out loud as a group. While the group reads, take note of any details, words, or phrases that stand out to you. Use the space provided on the side to write down your observations.

SELECTED PASSAGES

Philippians 2:1-11: 1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have there been times in your life when you've felt on the outside of something? Tell the group about your experience?
2. In Philippians 2:6, Paul says, "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;" This verse is referred to by theologians as the hypostatic union of Christ; meaning Jesus was both God and man at the same time in one

being. With this knowledge of Christ, how does it make you feel when the world refers to Jesus as merely a good prophet, teacher, or moral man? How would you address these opinions?

3. Philippians 2:5-11 is what theologians call a Christology; the study of Christ. Our view of Christ impacts how we live our life. For example, if we see God as a judgemental ruler in the sky, we will treat others accordingly. Do you think every Christian has a correct view of God? How about yourself? How do you see your view of God impacting your actions towards others?
4. At some juncture in our life, we're taught that it isn't right to associate oneself with a certain kind of person or group of people? Can you remember when you've been told or taught this? How do you feel about it today? Are there still people or groups that you intentionally distance yourself from?
5. In many ways, our culture has become too quick to make everything and everyone that disagrees into an adversary. What would the world look like if Christians chose to fill in the divisions with empathy, generosity, and service instead of judgment?
6. By Jesus coming to earth, he shows us that we don't have to change our mind, compromise our beliefs, feel like hypocrites, or cash in our integrity to remain present. What does it look like to still be okay, still be friends, still be a loving presence in our disagreements with others?
7. In some ways, Christian culture or the Church has become too focused on persuading others to change their minds and behaviours before inviting them into our lives and churches. What does it look like to reach out to people relationally, working to close the space between them and us first? When is it acceptable to address behaviours? How should we go about doing this?
8. If Christ gave up his life to draw close to us, what can we do to draw close to others? What does this look like practically? What are practices or strategies you've found in the past that has worked for you?

MAIN IDEA

In one to three sentences, summarize your main take-away from this lesson. You can write it down in the space provided or verbalize it to the group. Include anything that you would like to put into practice this week as an application. James 1:22, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to pray as a group. Record any prayer requests in the space below. 1 John 5:14-15, *"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him."*

LOOKING FORWARD

Take a moment to plan the location and time of your next gathering. Will anyone need to prepare anything before, like a snack or refreshments? This is a good time to ask if anyone would be open to lead the next eGroup time or even just a portion of it, like prayer.