

FOOD TIME: (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

MEETING TIME: (45 minutes)

This theme of joy continues in Paul's message into chapter 2. As we continue to see, that joy can only truly come from the relationship that is formed with Christ. It is a joy that we should not want to experience just for ourselves, but one that we should want to share with everyone so that they can experience what true joy is under Christ as well. As you go into discussion this week, think about how you both receive the joy of Christ on a daily basis, but also how you can show it to others. This section of scripture does an amazing job at glorifying the sacrifice that Christ made for all of us, and we can show gratitude through how we live a life for Christ.

READ Philippians 2:1-11

1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, **2** fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. **3** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. **4** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. **9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11** and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

FACILITATE Discussion Questions

1. How can being like-minded and having the same love fulfill the joy of the Father?
2. What can you do to better live out verses 3 and 4?
3. How does this living in this manner honor and glorify God?
4. What does Christ's obedience encourage us to do?
5. How can you help show joy to others?

PRAY- Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

APPLICATION- As is with many of Paul's messages, we are called to not just be in relationship with Christ, we are called to live it out as well. As you go out this week, think about how you can live a life that exudes the joy that Paul is talking about here. Also, look for those opportunities to live out verses 3 and 4. Find ways to put your own wants and desires on the back burner so that you can look out for someone else's needs first. This can come with your marriage, your kids, someone at church, or even the co-worker who you have struggled with lately. Be willing to let God direct you in ways that serve His kingdom.