



# Joy Beyond Ourselves *Philippians 2*

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## PHILIPPIANS 2

### BIG IDEA:

As we take this journey afforded us by the loving instruction in faith offered to the church at Philippi by the imprisoned apostle Paul, we first learned that joy is discovered in Christ, and experienced when we become conscious of what he is doing “in” us, rather than searching for it in what is happening “to” us. So, joy is experienced within us, but joy is expressed outside of us, or when the focus of our lives begins to be “beyond ourselves.” In short, we will never be full of joy until we first look within, celebrate what God is doing there, and express it in the form of service to those around us.

### STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Read Phil. 2:3-4. We have many opportunities to live life with one another and care for each other: serving together in the church, living together on a college campus, marrying and forming a family together, and playing together on a sports team. Tell about a time when you looked out for the interests of another person.
  - a. Did your attitude have any effect on how much you cared?
  - b. How did caring for others make a difference in your relationship?
2. Read Phil. 2:5-6. What does Paul tell us about who Jesus is?
  - a. How is Jesus the “very nature of God”? Read John 1:1-4.
  - b. What does it mean to say that Jesus is God in the flesh? Read John 1:14 and 1John 1:1-2.
  - c. What does Paul mean when he says that Jesus “did not consider equality with God something to be grasped”?
  - d. What does this say about the attitude of Jesus?
3. Read Phil. 2:7-8. What does Paul tell us about what Jesus chose to do?
  - a. What does it mean that Jesus made himself nothing?
  - b. In what ways did Jesus take on the nature of a servant? What are the characteristics of being a servant?
  - c. How does Jesus illustrate the teaching of Philippians 2:3-4?
  - d. What does Paul mean when he says that Jesus became obedient to death, even death on a cross? Was there a limit to Christ’s obedience?
4. Read Phil. 2:9-11. What was God’s response to Jesus’ humility and obedience?
  - a. How high was Jesus exalted?
  - b. What kind of name was Jesus given?
  - c. What response does the name of Jesus demand from us?
5. In our relationships with one another, how can we have the attitude of Christ?
  - a. Does having the attitude of Christ mean that we think less of ourselves?
  - b. Does have having the attitude of Christ revolve around our ability to choose to let go of what is rightfully ours?
  - c. Since there was no limit to Christ’s obedience, what does that demand from us in terms of our attitude towards obedience to God?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- In Philippians 2:3-4, Paul mentioned two joy-killers: selfish ambition (living to impress) and vain conceit (living for the applause). How do these things show up in our lives and what can we do to guard our hearts?
- Jane stated, “true joy cannot be contained, it must be expressed in the form of service.” Why is that statement true and in what ways can we express the true joy we have experienced in Christ? Discuss specific examples you encounter in your daily life and let the group help you find ways to define the attitude Jesus had in those or similar situations, and how we can learn to be “like-minded” with Christ.
- Do you believe that there is treasure within you that has yet to be discovered? “Work out your salvation” is the same language used to describe “mining for gold.” What is the “gold” that is buried in your life that could be discovered by going “all-in” with God?

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Pray that God will reveal areas in your life in which you may be selfish and proud, and ask Him to develop a more Christ-like attitude.

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**Announcements : CITY FOOD DRIVE** March 9-14 (Anyone who has income, purchase \$25 worth of non-perishables for the Salvation Army).