

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 20, 2009

Passage: Philippians 2:5-11

Memory Passage: Philippians 2:4-5

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Philippians 2:1-4.** What is Paul's concern for the Philippian believers? Why might he have this concern (Philippians 4:2)? Have you ever seen where disagreements in churches hurt the entire fellowship? Why?
- (b) What does Paul appeal to in verse 1? How would each of these characteristics be helpful in resolving differences in the Body?
- (c) What four things does he tell them will fulfill his joy (verse 2)? How are each of these similar? What is the difference between "having the same love" and "loving the same things?" What is Paul's main concern for this church?
- (d) What attitude toward others did Paul tell them to have (verse 3-4)? Why would esteeming others better than yourself come before looking out of the interests of others?
- (e) *Family:* Read Philippians 2:1-4. Talk together about conflicts and arguments? Do they happen in families? What should these tell us about our hearts? How can you protect *your* heart from selfishness this Christmas season? Pray that your heart would not be selfish as you celebrate this Christmas.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Philippians 2:5-6.** What do the following verses tell you about the "mind" (attitude) of Jesus (Matthew 11:29; Matthew 20:26-28; Luke 22:27; John 13:14-15)?
- (b) What about Christmas reminds us about the attitude of Jesus (verse 6)?
- (c) What does it mean for him to be in the "form of God?" Read Isaiah 9:6 and Micah 5:4. What do these prophecies tell us about the deity of Jesus?
- (d) Did Jesus consider Himself equal with God (John 8:58; John 10:33; John 14:9)? Was He equal with God? How did He act on earth even though He was equal with God? What pattern does this give us for our own actions?
- (e) *Family:* Read Philippians 2:5-6 and John 1:14. Talk about the honor that Jesus had before becoming a man. What is so amazing about God becoming flesh and living among us? What is Christmas really all about? Pray that you might celebrate the wonder of God becoming one of us at Christmas!

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Philippians 2:7.** What does it mean "made Himself of no reputation"? (Check some other translations and paraphrases).
- (b) Read Hebrews 2:14-17. Why did Jesus have to become a man? Could He have been our savior without becoming a man? What is one other reason He became a man (Hebrews 4:15)?
- (c) What do we learn about the lowliness of Jesus from the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-7)?
- (d) Look back at Philippians 2:3-4. How are we to react when we hear about the needs of others? Also read Romans 12:3 and 10. What do these verses tell us about our concern for reputations?
- (e) *Family:* Read Philippians 2:7 and Luke 2:1-7. Talk about what Jesus had to give up to become a man. Have you ever wondered why Jesus was not born in a palace instead of a manger? What does the Christmas story tell us about His humility in coming among us? Pray that you might have an attitude of humility toward others this Christmas season.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Philippians 2:8.** What was Jesus' greatest act of humility? How is this greater than His becoming a man?
- (b) Read Luke 1:76-79. What did Zacharias (the father of John the Baptist) prophecy about his son? What does this say about the coming of Jesus?
- (c) Read Luke 2:10-14. What did the angels proclaim about this child? Look especially in verse 11—what three titles do they give Him?
- (d) Read Isaiah 53:3-6. What did Isaiah prophecy about this child? What is the true meaning of Christmas?
- (e) *Family:* Read Philippians 2:8 and Isaiah 53:6. What is the main reason that Jesus came to be a man? Which would be harder: for Jesus to become a man or for Him to go to the cross? Why? How are the cross and the manger connected? Pray that this Christmas people around you would not separate the cross from Christmas.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Philippians 2:9-11.** What did God do when Jesus gave of Himself on the cross? Did Jesus understand this *before* the cross (John 17:1-5)?
- (b) How did the angels respond when they told the news about the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:13-14)? How did the wise men respond when they saw the baby (Matthew 2:11)? What do these responses tell us about who Jesus is?
- (c) What is the *name that is above every other name* (verse 11)? What does this name mean? Who alone was to be called this? How does this remind us about the deity of Jesus? What does Paul say about coming to salvation in Romans 10:9-10?
- (d) What is Paul telling these believers about setting aside their own needs for the sake of others? Read 1 Peter 5:5-8. How would you apply what Peter is saying to believers who are struggling with conflict in the church?
- (e) *Family:* Read Philippians 2:9-11 and Luke 2:13-14. Why is Christmas so filled with singing? What does it mean to glorify God? How can you glorify the Lord in your home this Christmas season? Pray that the eyes of many would be opened to worship Jesus for who He really is!

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Philippians 2:5-11. What can you do this Christmas to deal with conflict situations? What are the ways that you have displayed selfishness in your own approach to Christmas? What can you do to change that? Pray for the worship tomorrow that Jesus Christ might be honored as Lord!

DATE: December 20, 2009

PASSAGE: Philippians 2:5-11

The Spirit of Christmas

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...”