

CLAIMED BY GOD

Life Group
Discussion
Guide

05/17/2026

Sermon Summary: The Ascension isn't just a historical moment when Jesus returned to heaven—it's a launching point for how we live today as citizens of God's kingdom. Just as the angels challenged the early disciples to stop staring at the sky and start moving forward, we're called to work out our salvation step by step, growing in faith rather than staying stuck. This means having the same mindset as Christ Jesus—laying down our own interests and agendas to follow Him fully. But we face distractions: things we spend our time on, ways we justify our thinking, and how we round off the corners of God's Word to make it more comfortable. Like a bird trying to build a nest on a slippery shelf, we often try to build our faith in places it can't take root. The challenge is clear: we cannot serve two masters. We must choose to be intentional about planting God's Word in good soil, allowing it to transform us daily as we live out our true citizenship in heaven.

Conversation Starter: If you're honest, what's one thing that's been competing for God's attention in your life lately—something you find yourself thinking about, spending time on, or turning to more than you probably should?"

Prayer: Lord, help us to be citizens of your kingdom first, laying down the distractions that compete for your place in our hearts so we can follow you faithfully, step by step.

Read Scripture together: Philippians 2:1-11

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- Paul lists four "ifs" in verses 1-2: encouragement in Christ, comfort from His love, fellowship with the Spirit, and tenderness and compassion. Which of these do you most need to experience right now in your faith journey?
- Verse 3 says to "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit." What's one area of your life where selfish ambition tends to creep in and compete with God's purposes?
- "Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus" (v. 5) is a huge challenge. What does that actually look like in your everyday life—at work, at home, or in your relationships?
- Verses 6-8 describe how Jesus "made himself nothing" and "humbled himself." What's something you might need to lay down or let die in yourself to follow Jesus more fully?
- Paul says to "work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (v. 12). What does "working out your salvation" mean to you? What's one practical step you could take this week?
- The sermon mentioned the parable of the four soils. Which soil best describes where you are right now—rocky, shallow, thorny, or good? What would help you become better soil for God's Word?
- Verse 14 says "do everything without grumbling or arguing." Why do you think Paul includes this right after talking about working out our salvation? How does our attitude matter?
- Since "You cannot serve two masters." If you're honest, what's the one thing most competing with God for the throne of your life right now? What would it look like to choose God over that this week?

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:5

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for claiming us as your own and calling us to grow in faith. Give us strength to work out our salvation with intentionality—not perfectly, but faithfully, step by step. May we shine like stars in a world that needs to see Jesus in us! Amen