

Lesson 8 · They Humbled Themselves

In your group, talk through every question out loud. Don't rush to the "right" answer — let everyone weigh in. We'll come back together for the last 20 minutes to share what you found.

THE TEXT

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus..."

Philippians 2:3–5 · CSB

Part 1 · Discussion

Start on the surface and work toward the heart. Jot a few notes so you can share with the class.

- 1. Warm-up:** We all know the pull to be noticed. Think of one moment this past week when you wanted the credit, the seat, or the last word. Underneath it, was the appetite more to win — or to be admired?
- 2. Two appetites:** Paul names selfish ambition, the angling for position, and conceit, an "empty glory" that craves praise with nothing behind it. Where do those two show up most easily inside a healthy church, and why are they so hard to spot in ourselves?
- 3. The insult turned inside out:** The Greek world used "lowliness of mind" as an insult; the New Testament made it a jewel. What does it mean to count others as more important than yourself without sliding into false modesty or self-loathing?
- 4. The widened eye:** Paul doesn't abolish self-interest — he widens the field of vision beyond it. What is the difference between proper care for your own life and the self-focused mind Paul is correcting, and where does the line run in an ordinary week?

Read together: Philippians 2:6–8 · CSB

- 5. The descent:** Verses 6–8 walk Christ down, step by step — the form of God, no grasping, self-emptying, a servant’s form, human likeness, humbling, death on a cross. Which step strikes you hardest when you slow down over it, and why?
- 6. The engine:** Part 2 has been love in action — welcome, gifts, opportunity, generosity, honor. Pick one and describe what it curdles into when the mind of Philippians 2 is pulled out from under it.
- 7. Bringing it home:** The mind of Christ is a settled way of thinking, not a passing feeling. Name one place this past month where you grasped at something Christ would have laid down — and the one concrete step further down you can take this week.

“The called-out came together as a body with a single mind — the mind of the Lord who did not grasp at his rightful place, but stepped down into ours.”