

When coming to this study we ask that you pray first. Take the time to ask God to speak through his scripture. If you don't get to all of the questions but have spent time with God your task is accomplished.

Then before reading the questions read the word. You can use some of the notations below to track your reactions and thoughts as you go:

Inspire: write a (!) beside what stands out positively so far and write a note about why

Inquire: write a (?) beside what doesn't make sense. Ask why it's there. OR by what raises a question for you.

Irk: write a (#!?) beside what rubs you the wrong way or creates dissonance.

Require: write a () beside something that demands change within you

Underline or highlight phrases that stick out.

After you're done going through the passage. Take a few moments to review your notes.

Write one sentence off the cuff. Based on your first impression, what are you thinking? How may God be speaking?

Let these prompts below continue to guide your dialogue with God and lead you into deeper reflection on His word.

PHILIPPIANS- THROUGH THE LENS OF JESUS' SACRIFICE

Philippians 2:5-18 (Paul displays how to keep our eyes on Jesus to understand our salvation and attitude).

Philippians 2:5-11

- In What ways did Jesus humble himself?
- How is Jesus now exalted?
- What is the connection between these two parts? Why should the Jesus who did what verses 6-8 say he did be honored in this way?

- Jesus had equality with God and traded it for the cross. Do you freely give from what you've been given? Do you find it hard to relinquish your emotions for the good of a relationship? (Remembering Paul wrote this for the good of the people within the Philippian church.)
- What would happen in our relationships if we lived out Philippians 2:5-11? How can you emulate the humility of Christ?
- Pause and read Isaiah 53, and marvel at the humility of Christ and at His atoning work.
- Why should we be overwhelmed by the fact that we can know Jesus and that He knows us?
- How is the exaltation of Christ displayed in this passage?
- Why is the exaltation of Christ important to you today?
- The passage ends by saying that Christ's work was done "to the glory of God the Father." How does this move you? Is your great aim to live a humble, others-oriented life for the glory of the Father, through Jesus?
- Go around the table and pray for the person on your right. Pray that they would have a deeper desire to live for God's glory by following Christ's example.

Philippians 2:12-18

This passage is not about works-based righteousness. Paul doesn't say, 'work for your own salvation.' We can't earn salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10). Paul says 'Work out your salvation.' That's a huge difference. God has worked salvation for us by His sovereign grace alone. Christ has done the work on the cross to bring us to 'justification.' Sanctification is about living in light of this gracious gift of salvation, living in light of our new position and our new identity.¹

- What does it mean to work out one's salvation?
- There is a significant difference between 'working for your salvation' and working out your salvation.' Why is this an important distinction to make?
- Are there areas of your life you still need to submit to Jesus?

¹ Merida, Tony, Francis Chan, David Platt, and Daniel L. Akin. *Exalting Jesus in Philippians*. Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2016.

- Paul uses the phrase “fear and trembling,” as it is often translated in verse 12, he means with “utter seriousness.” What would it mean for you to work out the practical implications of your salvation in this way?
- How does living with an awareness of the holy presence of God compel you to live a life of holiness?
- Underneath our work is God’s work (guiding and leading us). How does this bring comfort to your life as a Christian?
- How do grumbling and complaining damage your witness? The church’s witness?
- We are all tempted to complain and grumble. How can you maintain a joyful attitude in the face of the problems of life?
- When Paul speaks of them shining like lights (v. 15) he is quoting a passage from the book of Daniel (12:3) which speaks of “the wise”—meaning Israelites skilled in knowing and applying God’s law, not least in a time of persecution. Who comes to mind as examples of such lights?
- The passage ends on a note of celebration. Why?
- Whose faith can you celebrate today?
- Paul also uses the image of being a “sacrificial offering.” What does this image teach you about the nature of your ministry to others? How does it correlate to 2:5-11?

The diagram below is a tool to help you reflect on your brokenness, repent, and act accordingly. In The text for this week, Paul holds up Jesus’ life as a mirror to ours and then we adjust accordingly as we “work out our salvation.” Take some time to observe your life, reflect on it in prayer, talk about it with others, plan what you’re going to do about it, find accountability, and then do it.

