

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 22-28, 2024

“THE WAY UP IS DOWN”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you could meet any historical figure (except Jesus), who would it be and what would you want to talk to him/her about?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Philippians 2:1-11.

1. In verses 1-2, Paul talks about unity. Why is unity important in the church? How do we gain unity?
2. Paul talks about humility (verse 3). How big a deal is humility? Why does God care that we have the attitude of Christ (verse 5)? And what difference does our attitude make? Does humility cost?
3. Verse 3 speaks of “selfish ambition” (NIV). Is ambition always selfish? Is it possible to be ambitious and not be selfish? What does “vain conceit” (NIV) mean? How does your translation render it?
4. Philippians 2.3 says “value others above yourself.” What would this look like for a Christian? In your life?
5. What do we learn about Jesus in verses 5-8? This passage could be summarized by saying that Jesus went down, down, down. What does it mean for us, as humans, to go down, down, down?
6. Let’s talk about service in the real world. Who have you known who was an example of having a servant’s heart?

7. How did humility benefit Jesus (verses 9-11)? Do you think Jesus humbled himself in order that he might receive the reward of being exalted? Should we humble ourselves so we will be rewarded? Should we serve God for what we will get out of it?

NEXT STEPS

- I will not compare myself with others but will consider others better than me.
- I will be a servant and serve often.
- I will strive to maintain a humble attitude.

Don’t forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray to grow in humility and grow to be more like Jesus.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

September 23	Philippians 2:1-11
September 24	Mark 10:35-45
September 25	James 4:7-17
September 26	Luke 10:17-24
September 27	Daniel 1:8-16
September 28	Psalms 26:1-12
September 29	John 8:1-20