



## Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

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# The House that Joy Built: Less is More!

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### SCRIPTURE

#### Philippians 2:1-18 (NIV)

**1** Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2** then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. **3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

**5** In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; **7** rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

**9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**12** Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

**14** Do everything without grumbling or arguing, **15** so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”**[c]** Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky **16** as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. **17** But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. **18** So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

### ENGAGE

Do you think most people in our culture view humility as a good thing or a bad thing? Do Christians view it any differently?

## DISCUSS

1. Read the focus passage above. What things are challenging about this verse?
2. Humility is essential in our relationship with God. Why do you think this is? What part does humility play in our salvation?
3. Humility, for the basis of this lesson, is less of us and more of Jesus. How else would you describe Godly humility?
4. Verse 3 talks about valuing others more than ourselves. What letter grade (A+ to F) would you give yourselves in this area? What are some things we can do to actually show this to people around us? (Example: doing the dishes for your wife or mowing the yard for your husband)
5. How difficult do you believe it was for Christ to leave heaven in order to serve us?
6. Do you think our friends would say that we grumble a lot? What does this say about our relationship with Christ?

## YOUR NEXT STEP

What can you do this week in response to today's lesson? Consider one of these actions:

- a. Become a follower of Christ, realizing that you can't save yourself (see Galatians 2-3)
- b. Decide to practice servanthood at home in order to show your family that they are important.
- c. Think of ways to serve people outside the family and model Christianity to them.

## OTHER PASSAGES CITED

1 Cor. 13:4

Prov. 27:2

Gal. 6:14

Prov. 28:13