

## LESSON 7

Philippians 2:5-11



# United We Stand

## OPEN IT

1. Who is someone you have always looked up to? What do you like about that person?

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Philippians 2:5-11

2. What does Paul tell the Philippians about Jesus and His relationship with God the Father?
3. How does Paul describe what happened when Jesus was "born in human likeness"?
4. Where does the name of Jesus stand among all others? What will happen as a result?
5. What will every tongue confess?

## Day 2

### TODAY'S THEME: JESUS' HUMILITY

Read Philippians 2:5-8

Paul has just told the Philippians to consider other people as more important than themselves and to consider others' interests above their own. To help them understand what this looks like, Paul couldn't think of any example better than Jesus Himself.

Paul teaches the Philippians that before coming to earth, Jesus existed in the form of God—a visible manifestation of the glory and splendor of God. In Exodus 33, Moses asks to see God's glory and God tells him, "Man shall not see me and live." Now that must be some spectacular glory! But then Paul tells them that Jesus humbled Himself, or emptied Himself, by taking on the form of a human by being born as a baby. So He gave up all that splendor and glory to be like us. But not only that, but Paul goes on that Jesus didn't only humble Himself by becoming a human, but then as a human he humbled Himself to the point of death, and not just any death, death on a cross. What Paul is demonstrating for the Philippians is that if anyone had a right to be full of themselves and seek their own interests, it was Jesus. But even Jesus humbled Himself to serve us and meet our needs as humans.

It would be even more than a CEO of a company giving up all the benefits of his being CEO and going to work as an entry-level employee. It's unheard of!

When God commands us to put others first, He isn't just sitting up in heaven bossing us around to be annoying. He has done the very thing to an even greater extent by sending His Son to die on the cross for your sins. So look for a chance to put someone else first, because when you do that, you're sharing a taste of the love that God has given to you.

6. The phrase used in verse 5 (have this mind) literally means, "a settled way of thinking or feeling." What would it look like for you to think the way Jesus thinks?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. As God, Jesus had every right to grab all the things that were His (btw... which is everything!!!), but instead of grabbing He gave freely to those who didn't deserve it. How does knowing that Jesus gave up so much in order to give generously to us encourage you in your standing with Him and change your view of how you use your time and talents?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Paul says that Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. What limits do you put on your own obedience to God?

**PRAYER GUIDE** ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Ask God to continue to transform your mind and give you the mind of Christ, that you would think like Jesus thinks.

## Day 3

### TODAY'S THEME: JESUS' EXULTATION

Read Philippians 2:9-11

Because of Jesus' humility and obedience, He wasn't left humbled. Now He is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus wasn't left in the grave; He was raised up. Jesus wasn't left as a servant; He is now regarded as Lord and King!

Sometimes words we use in everyday language don't have a great significance unless they are used in a specific way. For example, if I say this is the person I met today, that sentence isn't too great. But if I say that I have found **the** one, you know that I'm saying I've found that special someone (which I have by the way). Well that's what Paul does in these verses. He tells us that God has exalted Jesus and bestowed on him not a significant name, but **the** name that is above every name. Jesus has now been made higher than all others. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

These verses give us a great hope as believers that our Savior truly is King and that the war is really won. One day, every knee will bow down to Jesus and every mouth will confess that Jesus is Lord. For now, we may be put down or mocked for being Christians sometimes, but someday, even those people who might put you down right now will confess that Jesus is Lord. Someday, even they will bow down to Jesus as King.

The world will tell us that we need to exalt ourselves and make sure we are recognized and appreciated for who we are and what we bring to the table. But God seems to teach something different. Humble yourself and you will be exalted. We may not be exalted in this life, but we have the sure hope that there is a day coming where we will stand with Christ for all eternity, and on that day, I bet I'll be feeling a whole lot better than being exalted in this life!

9. Who has God put in your world to serve and in what ways can you begin to serve others as Christ did?

10. How does this future vision of the entire universe praising Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords cause you to rethink your approach to living out your faith boldly today?

**PRAYER GUIDE** ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Take a moment and thank Christ for humbling Himself to serve you by dying on the cross. And then take some time to praise Jesus for how great and magnificent He is!