



REAL JOY

A STUDY
THROUGH
PHILIPPIANS

WEEK 5
FEBRUARY 9

LIFE
GROUPS

GUIDE

FINDING JOY

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
Philippians 2:5*

GETTING STARTED

Describe a time when you and another person were thinking the same thing.

STORY BACKGROUND

*“Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind” (Philippians 2:2). The word “rejoice” (and other words with similar meanings) appear many times in Philippians. It is not far-fetched to say that joy is the main thought of the letter to the Philippians. But joy in what? Paul was a man imprisoned because of his faith, most likely in Rome. The way Paul decides to encourage joy in the heart of his readers is through **kenosis** (the ‘self-emptying’ of Jesus’ fleshly will and becoming entirely receptive to God’s divine will). Paul points us to Jesus and His mindset when describing relationships between us and our peers. The mindset of Christ is to humble oneself for the servitude of others, as illustrated by Jesus Himself, “*who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men*” (Philippians 2:6-7). If indeed a “complete” joy is to have a spirit of unity in mind, love, and Spirit (Philippians 2:2), let us learn from the Word today how to “*do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves*” (Philippians 2:3).*

IN UNITY



STORY: Philippians 2:1-11 (Read aloud)

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 2:1-2

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.



HEAD LEVEL: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- What would have made Paul's joy complete?
- What is the attitude that Jesus had, which Paul references in verse 5?



HEART LEVEL: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What does it mean to “*regard one another as more important than yourselves*” (verse 3, NASB)?
- How does this apply to the concept of oneness, of “*being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind*” (verse 2)?



HANDS LEVEL: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- What is God calling you to change today about yourself in order to adopt more of Jesus' attitude?
- How can you apply Paul's teaching and Jesus' attitude today to your everyday life, going forward - not only in your church community, but in your workplace, family, and neighborhood?

Next Week's Life Group: Real Joy: Finding Joy in Being Different

Next Week's Story: Philippians 2:12-18

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,*
and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. (*Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11*)
