# **DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS**

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

# **PHILIPPIANS**

STUDY #4: Paul's Perspective Philippians 2:1-18

## BIBLE STUDY TOOLS ~ BIBLE STUDY METHODS ~

## **LOOK FOR LISTS**

- Lists: Authors have reasons for listing what they do and even for the order of a series.
  - What are some things that can be effectively put into lists?

    Is there any significance to the order? Look for differences between the first and last items in a list? Examples: List--the attributes of God. A recipe.
- What is the value of recognizing lists and order within lists in helping you understand what the Bible is saying?

## **INTRODUCTION**

*List* the PME courses you've taken. What was the significance of the order in which you took them?

#### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

# Read Philippians 2:1-11

- 1. In vv. 2:1-4, Paul describes motives and means:
  - a. List the motives Paul offers in v. 1.
  - b. *List* the means Paul suggests in vv. 3-4.

	Motives	Means
-		

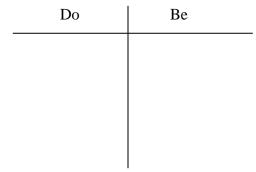
- 2. What is Paul trying to get the Philippians to achieve?
- 3. Whom does Paul cite in v. 5 as the role model for our attitude?
- 4. Jesus has both divine and human characteristics. *List* the characteristics of Jesus' nature you observe in vv. 6-8

Divine nature	Human nature
	Page 1

- 5. How does Jesus exemplify what Paul means in vv. 3-4?
- 6. Describe any significance to the order in which the aspects of Jesus' nature are listed?
- 7. What is the difference between humility (using your strength for the good of others) and being a doormat?
- 8. What relationship do you see between Jesus humbling Himself [v.8] and His being humiliated by His death on a cross? What was the result of Jesus' humiliation? vv. 9-11

# Read Philippians 2:12-16

9. *List* the things that Paul exhorts the Philippians to do and to be:



- 10. How will we be able to achieve these things? v.13
- 11. What part is up to God? What part is up to me?
- 12. In light of vv. 1-4 and vv.13-16, what does it mean to work out your own salvation (v.12)?

# Read Philippians 2:17-18

- 13. We saw Paul's perspective on life described in v. 1:21. "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"
- 14. How would you explain what Paul means in v. 2:17?

## **APPLICATION**

- How are you working out your salvation?
- Would others characterize you as humble? How would things change at home, at church, or at work if you consistently applied vv. 3-8?

<u>For next week</u> read the entire book of Philippians (10-15 minutes) again. We will focus on Paul's colleagues, as shown in verses 2:19-30, and use the Bible study tool "investigative questions."