

GROUP 1

THE CONTEXT OF PHILIPPIANS

What problems or concerns in Philippians help explain why Paul says what he does in Philippians 2:1-18?

READ:

- Philippians 1:27-30
- Philippians 2:1-18
- Philippians 4:2-3

AS YOU READ, DISCUSS:

- What repeated concerns, commands, or tensions do you notice?
- What seems to be happening in the Philippian church?
- How does that larger situation sharpen the purpose of Philippians 2:1-18?

NOTES / EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT

BE READY TO REPORT:

What does your contextual evidence add to our understanding of Philippians 2 that we would miss if we read Philippians 2 by itself?

GROUP 2

THE CONTEXT OF JESUS' TEACHING

How does Jesus' teaching and example elsewhere help us understand Paul's use of Christ in Philippians 2?

READ:

- Mark 10:35-45
- John 13:1-17

AS YOU READ, DISCUSS:

- What does Jesus teach about greatness, authority, and service?
- How does Jesus himself model what he commands?
- What does this add to Paul's call to follow Christ's pattern in Philippians 2?

NOTES / EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT

BE READY TO REPORT:

What does your contextual evidence add to our understanding of Philippians 2 that we would miss if we read Philippians 2 by itself?

GROUP 3

THE CONTEXT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

What Old Testament ideas or passages stand behind Paul's description of Christ, and what do they add?

READ:

- Isaiah 45:18-25
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12

AS YOU READ, DISCUSS:

- What themes of lordship, submission, service, suffering, or exaltation do you see?
- Where do these themes sound similar to Philippians 2:5-11?
- How does the Old Testament background deepen Paul's description of Jesus?

NOTES / EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT

BE READY TO REPORT:

What does your contextual evidence add to our understanding of Philippians 2 that we would miss if we read Philippians 2 by itself?

GROUP 4

THE CONTEXT OF PAUL'S OTHER LETTERS

Is Paul's argument in Philippians 2 unique, or does he make similar connections between Christ and Christian life elsewhere?

READ:

- Romans 12:1-10
- 2 Corinthians 8:9
- Ephesians 4:1-6

AS YOU READ, DISCUSS:

- How does Paul connect what God has done with how Christians should live?
- What similarities do you see with Philippians 2?
- What pattern emerges between Christ's work and the Christian life?

NOTES / EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT

BE READY TO REPORT:

What does your contextual evidence add to our understanding of Philippians 2 that we would miss if we read Philippians 2 by itself?