

Just for September Leader Guide
Philippians 2

Before You Read: The phrase, “Jesus is Lord,” was a major statement in the ancient world because Roman citizens would cry out, “Caesar is Lord!” It was a clever move by the early Christians to take such a familiar phrase and use it for their own purposes. Caesar was neither the Lord nor a god, he was just a man. Jesus, on the other hand, was everything Caesar claimed to be—and much more. Many Christians died because they would not renounce their faith and say, “Caesar was Lord.” Hopefully, that background will lead to an even greater appreciation for the Christ Hymn that you’ll read in verses 6-11.

Read 2:1-11

1. Unity is a major theme of verses 1-4. What in that section stuck out to you?
2. Whether at church or in your personal relationships, how have you dealt with differences of opinions and yet heeded the call to “be of the same mind” (v. 2)?
 - a. Why is it so hard to be unified even among Christians?
3. “Christology” is a term for the study of the nature and role of Christ. If you ask, “Who is Jesus?” then you’re asking a Christological question. If verses 6-11 are an early hymn that Paul incorporated into this letter, then what does this teach us about the early believers’ Christology?
 - a. Through this hymn, who did they claim Jesus to be? What characteristics did he possess?
4. What does this hymn teach us about the “mind of Christ” and what it might mean for us to have that same mind in us? What does it teach us about how to approach disagreement? Has this shaped how you’ve lived your life?

Read 2:12-30

5. What do you think Paul meant when he said in verse 12, “Work out your salvation in fear and trembling”?
 - a. How have you reconciled God’s unconditional grace that is freely given to us, and yet the call to live a certain way as a Christian in your own life?
6. Referring to verse 15, how do you shine your light (Christ’s light) in the places you work and live?
7. Are there any lingering questions or thoughts you have after reading this chapter? Any lessons from this chapter that you can take with you in the days ahead?

Prayer: Jesus, Son of the Living God, you are the Lord of all. We come before you in gratitude for the reconciling work you accomplished for us on the cross. May we live humble and grace-filled lives to your glory, and empowered by the Holy Spirit may we shine your light in every aspect of our life. Amen.