

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Serving Others

Philippians 2

Objective: In this bible study we will look at the biblical description of being a servant.

Group Discussion: In the world people are looked at successful by what they have achieved in a career or in material possessions they have obtained and a servant is often looked down upon as a lowly position. How is this different to Christians and would you like to be someone's servant as a non believer? How about as a believer? Why or why not?

Introduction: Philippi was a city in Macedonia and Paul's first visit there was during his secondary missionary journey. He built a relationship with the Philippians and they held a special place in his heart. He is writing this letter from Rome when he was imprisoned and is thanking them for the gift they had sent to him with Epaphroditus. Paul also using this opportunity to write to them about many other topics including: telling them about his circumstances; encouraging them to stand firm; being examples and being Christ like; to be humble and unified. Most important for the purpose of this study, Paul writes about being humble and being a good servant. He uses Christ as an example and how he humbled himself and was a servant, even though he was God, and did not have to but he did it out of obedience.

***** Note: There are no right or wrong answers to the questions and intended to be discussed in a group setting that allows people to answer what they think.**

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Philippians 2

- 1 What cause and effect does Paul speak about in Philippians 2: 1-2?
When we think about belonging to Christ we are encouraged; think about how he loves us we are comforted, partake in godly fellowship; and have a heart of God we will work in unity with the brethren, love each other and be like minded and of one accord.
- 2 Can we relate Philippians 2:1 to a servant and how? When you reflect at God's love in your life, have a heart full of compassion and tenderness and walk with the spirit you will be willing to take on the role of a Godly servant.
- 3 What one word or phrase comes to mind when you hear the word "servant"? Slave, sacrifice, putting others first, unselfishness, denial, humble.
- 4 What words beginning in verse 3-30 does Paul use that describe a servant or words you would associate with being a servant? Don't be selfish; do not try to impress others; humble; think others better than yourself; don't look out for only your own interest but take an interest in others too; Christ's attitude; humbleness; slave; obedience; elevated; work hard; show the results of your salvation; desire and the power to do what pleases him; without complaining; faithful service is an offering to God; joy; rejoice; genuinely cares; preaching the Good News; risk; messenger.
- 5 Name the four servants in this chapter and what was it that each did to be called a servant.
 - A) Jesus Christ - humbled himself and took the form of a man and position of a slave in obedience to God and died a criminal's death. Ultimately served as the perfect sacrifice and shed his blood for the forgiveness of our sins.
 - B) Timothy - served in preaching the Good News and had a genuine interest in the welfare of others.

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Philippians 2

C) Epaphroditus - served as a messenger for the Philippians by delivering a care package to Paul and denying himself as he contracted an infirmity and risked his life for the task on hand.

D) Paul - served in spreading the Good News, encouraging others, putting the interest of others before his own interests while risking his life to do the work of his Father.

- 6 What does God promise to do to those servants who serve with humbleness? Verse 9 God elevated Christ and in "the humble will be exalted". God will take a good and faithful servant and use him in many other areas of servitude.
- 7 What can hinder someone from serving? Selfishness, lack of interest for others; disobedience, not willing to sacrifice; fear; pride, inconvenience.
- 8 What are some of the costs associated with being a servant? Work; time giving of oneself; sacrifice; denial, pain and disappointment;
- 9 What are some of the ways we can serve? Preaching, witnessing, loving, praying for the needs of others, ministry; listening to others; encouraging, fasting for others, being a good friend, a good example, laboring, standing in the gap for unbelievers.

Summary: God is looking for good and faithful servants. On that day when he returns we all should long to hear those precious words of the Lord "come forth my good and faithful servant". A faithful servant is one who is willing to take risk, sacrifice, and give of himself. A faithful servant is not one who serves only when it is convenient but even when it is

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Philippians 2

inconvenient and may make one uncomfortable. Being a good servant involves having the genuine interest of others at hand and putting the interest of others before our own.

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