

Philippians 2 GG Guide

SCRIPTURE READING QUESTIONS

Before diving into the group discussion, consider these four questions as you read the text:

- **What does this passage say about God, who He is, and what He does (Father, Son, and Spirit)?**
- **What does this passage teach me about me?**
- **What comfort/challenge can I take away from this passage?**
- **How will I respond or live differently because of what I've read?**

PART 1: THE FOUNDATION

Loving God's People (The Community Lens) In Philippians 2, our "One New Family" identity is put on practical display. Paul pleads with the church to be of the same mind, having the same love, and sharing the same spirit. True community requires us to do nothing out of selfish ambition, but instead, in humility, to consider others as more important than ourselves.

- **Key Question:** "How are you pursuing authentic community with other believers right now?"
- **Key Question:** "What gets in the way of community with other believers?"

Looking to God's Word (The Truth Lens) This chapter reveals our incredible "Wealth in Christ" through the ultimate display of His identity. Though Jesus was in the form of God, He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a servant (Philippians 2:6-7, CSB). Because of His obedience unto death, God has highly exalted Him. Our identity is secure because we belong to the One whose name is above every name.

- **Key Question:** "How is God's Word challenging you?"
- **Key Question:** "What can you do to prioritize God's Word?"

PART 2: THE WALK

Listening to God's Voice (The Prayer Lens) Paul reminds us that "it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose" (Philippians 2:13, CSB). Walking in the Spirit means listening for His guidance to help us work out our salvation with fear and trembling, actively surrendering our grumbling and disputing to Him.

- **Key Question:** "How is God directing you?"
- **Key Question:** "What do you need to quiet in your life to hear God better?"

Living Sent (The Mission Lens) We are called to be "blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation" (Philippians 2:15, CSB). Our "sending capacity" shines brightest when we hold firmly to the word of life, acting as lights in a dark world and capturing everyday opportunities to point others to Jesus.

- **Key Question:** "What everyday opportunity have you used to point someone to Jesus?"
- **Key Question:** "What opportunities did you miss to tell someone about Jesus?"

GROUP PRAYER & SUMMARY

- **Closing Thought:** Philippians 2 shows us that the path to true unity and effective mission is the path of Christlike humility—emptying ourselves of pride so that God can work through us to shine His light into the world.
- **Final Action:** Look for one concrete opportunity this week to put someone else's needs ahead of your own preferences, doing so without complaining or arguing.

PAGE 3: FACILITATOR CHEAT SHEET

The Structural Lens

Indicative vs. Imperative: The theological framework centers on the beautiful *Christ Hymn* (v. 5-11) as the **Indicative** (the fact of Christ's humility, death, and cosmic exaltation). The **Imperative** flows directly from this foundation: "Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus" (v. 5) and "work out your own salvation" (v. 12). Remind the group that our effort to live righteously is fueled entirely by the fact that God is already at work within us (v. 13).

Facilitation Tips

- **Clarifying "Work Out Your Salvation":** Members might get confused and think verse 12 implies earning their salvation by works. Redirect them to verse 13 immediately. Emphasize that we work *out* what God has already worked *in*; it is the regular exercise of a gift already received, not a payment for it.
- **Addressing Grumbling:** If the group treats "grumbling and arguing" (v. 14) as a minor issue, highlight how Paul links it directly to our ability to shine as lights in the world. A unified, joyful disposition is a primary tool for our missional witness.

Leader Insights

- **Community:** Paul highlights Timothy and Epaphroditus (v. 19-30) as living examples of the "One New Family". True community isn't abstract; it looks like genuine, self-sacrificing care for the welfare of others.
- **Truth:** The "Truth Lens" of the Christ Hymn protects us from the false narrative that human status and self-exaltation bring life. True greatness in God's kingdom is always shaped like a cross.
- **Prayer:** Recognizing that God works in our "willing" and "working" points us directly to prayer. We must pray for the Spirit to reshape our deep desires (our "will") before we can expect our outward actions to change.
- **Mission:** Our "sending capacity" is inherently linked to our distinctiveness. We don't point people to Jesus by blending into a crooked generation, but by standing out as star-like lights through our love, purity, and selflessness.