

## Relationships Start with Mindset | Philippians 2:1-11 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

**Purpose of Discussion:** To take a step to better live out the way of humility.

**Discussion:**

Consider rewatching the video showed in the sermon, "The Lifespan of Loneliness."  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVPc46GFq-4>

1. In our current American way of life, how do you see our "way of life" that we choose can lead to loneliness?

**Transition:** Dave asked us to consider whether our way of life is smaller than what we were created for. We have all been wired and desire to live in "togetherness community." Paul is encouraging us to a bigger way of life that goes against some of the grain of our current way of life.

**Read:**

[Philippians 2:1-2](#)

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

2. What should we expect life to feel like living in imperfect human community?
3. When our relationships have fallen short of what we want or need, how does our relationship with God bring encouragement, love, comfort, affection and/or sympathy?

**Transition:** Paul says that when we experience that kind of relationship with God, we are called to build healthy community amidst the imperfect ones where he has us. He then gives us the key to building that kind of community.

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

## **Read:**

### [Philippians 2:3-8](#)

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

4. How does humility breed healthier community rather than selfish ambition or vain conceit?
5. How did Jesus show us the way of humility?

## **Read:**

### [Philippians 2:9-11](#)

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

6. Why was it worth it for Jesus to be humble? Why is it for us?
7. What might it look like for us to adjust to this humble way of life Jesus set for us rather than following this current American way of life?
  - Are there different habits we need to set?

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

- Who do we need to see and consider his or her needs more?
- Where do we need to put on a servant attitude more?
- How might we need to cultivate a relationship with God that fills us in ways human community can't?

## **Sharing and Prayer:**

Consider having everyone pray silently for greater humility in themselves. Then close with this prayer from Canyon Road, p.86.

"Help me to love with your divine love, which no force in heaven or earth can thwart.

Cover, infuse, and fill my day with your unconditional love.

I want to know the kind of love that disregards all else for the well-being and highest good of another. I want to be changed, and for my natural loves to be changed, by this force that beats within your breast.

I have no good apart from you, Jesus: Anything good I possess comes from you.

Give me an inordinate amount of your perfect love.

Teach me what to do with it once I have it.

Usher forth new opportunities to love extravagantly, and selflessly, and make more of the person you intended, as I walk with you and wait for the wildness of your life to envelop and hold me. "

Amen.