**Growth Group Bible Study**

Shining Like Stars: Living with Joy in a Dark World - Series

*Building a Buff Church*

May 9, 2021

**Reading** Philippians 2:1-11

**Intro:**

1. What is something you learned in last weekend’s message?
2. How did the message challenge you?

**Background**

Churches are made up of people and where there are people, disagreements can arise. In the church in Philippi, there are two people whose disagreement had gone public - everybody knew about it (see Philippians 4:2). Paul, writing from jail, shows us that true humility leads to unity. As you study this section of Scripture, keep in mind that Paul is shackled to a Roman soldier 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**READ: Philippians 2:1-2**

1. What encouragement do you have from belonging to Christ? Discuss a time when you experienced the comfort of God’s love.
2. Do you think agreeing wholeheartedly with each other means always having the same ideas and opinions? What do you think it means practically to be one in mind and purpose?

**READ: Philippians 2:3-4**

1. Why do you think we often feel such a strong desire to impress others? How does our culture contribute to this attitude of trying to impress?
2. What does Paul suggest we should do to counteract our natural tendency to try to impress others? What can you do to shift your focus toward taking an interest in others?
3. Why is it so difficult to think of others as better than yourself? What are some reasons that we struggle to live with such humility?

**Background**

Paul understands that the key to living out the commands mentioned in the first four verses of chapter two is to *“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 2:5, NASB). He then goes on to give one of the most powerful passages of Scripture in all of the Bible. In the poem that follows in verses 6-11, Paul details the humility that Jesus demonstrated during his earthly ministry as an example for all believers to follow

 **READ: Philippians 2:6**

1. Who does Paul start by saying Jesus is (see John 1:1-5). Reflecting on questions 3 & 4 above, what does this demonstrate to us about Jesus’ attitude?

**READ: Philippians 2:7-8**

1. How does it make you feel to know that a perfect God, the King of Kings, willingly chose to take the position of a slave? How did Jesus demonstrate his position as the servant during his earthly ministry and death?
2. What are some of the divine privileges Jesus temporarily gave up during his earthly ministry? Jesus demonstrated his humility by his obedience. How does obedience to God demonstrate our humility as well?
3. What are some practical things we can do that demonstrate an attitude of sincere humility?

**READ: Philippians 2:9-11**

1. Read Matthew 23:12. How do we see the principle that Jesus taught there play out in this passage? Discuss a time when you humbled yourself and how it made you feel.