

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: The Gift-Giver

Speaker: Christian Vaughn

Message: The Weight of Joy

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Memory Verse: John 8:12 NIV

When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: Joy is experiencing the presence of God through community, found in active relationship with Christ, and fulfilled in reverent communion.

Read Philippians 2:1-11

1. Paul speaks about the importance of unity among believers (vv 1-2). What typically makes unity challenging? In what things is it important to have unity, and where can we have variety? How can we still live in unity with others if we do not agree 100% with someone else?
2. Selfish ambition and conceit are specifically called out as things to avoid while humility is elevated (v 3). How do these negative traits quietly show up in your life (self-promotion, image-management, being right, needing control)? How is humility the antidote to being self-focused?
3. It is very easy to be self-focused, but we are challenged to consider others more important than ourselves (v 3). What emotions rise in you when you hear the directive to value others above yourself? Where do you feel the rub most when trying to live this out? What is a beginning step you can take that will help you improve in this area?



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4. We all cognitively and emotionally want to help others, but not everyone actually does anything to be helpful (v 4). What can keep the good things in our head and heart from moving to our hands? One way we are living out our vision is through acts of service. How can you plan to serve someone else within the next week? When we serve, how can we use that as an opportunity to point to Jesus?
5. We are called to have our attitudes and thoughts be the same as Jesus (v 5). What does it look like to live a life where our attitudes and thoughts reflect Jesus? Where specifically in your life would you like to improve your attitudes and thoughts so that they are more aligned with Jesus?
6. Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage (v 6). Have you ever used your status, position, or authority for your own personal advantage? When we lay those things aside to help others, what does that convey?
7. Throughout Scripture we see a theme indicating that humbling ourselves will result in God exalting us (Matthew 23:12; James 4:10; Proverbs 29:23). We see this same thing happen with Christ (v 8-9). When you imagine God exalting someone, what do you picture? Peace? Influence? Character? Fruitfulness? Something else? How does God “lifting you up” differ from people applauding you? How would your life look different if you aimed for God’s approval and exaltation rather than recognition from others?
8. Whether voluntarily or involuntarily, every knee will bow to Jesus (v 10-11). Imagine all the people you know or have met standing before Jesus as Lord. How does this mental picture shift the way you think about everyday moments and interactions? What would help you feel more comfortable and ready to share about Jesus with others?



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