

Humble Joy
Phil 2:1-11
(Bryan Chapell)

Connect:

1) What things have been particularly difficult in your life this past week?

Discuss:

Read Philippians 2:1-11

1. Pastor Bryan's introduction touched on the question "Why does God allow suffering to continue?". How did he answer that question? (Consider Matthew 13:24-30). Related to that, how does God use suffering in the life of a Christian? (Consider Romans 3:3-5 and James 1:2-4).
2. One could argue that suffering proves that God doesn't really love us. But how do verses 6-8 demonstrate that God, in fact, loves us greatly? Consider also Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10 and Psalm 5:7
3. Jesus entered our world and paid the penalty for our sin. But that is not the end of the story. How does Paul describe the long term impact of Christ's death in verses 9-11 and what are some of the implications of those truths? What things will come to an end when Christ takes us home? How does that truth impact the trials and difficulties we faced this past week?
4. God has demonstrated His immense love for us. Considering verses 1-5, how can we as Christ followers reflect that love to:
 - a. Our family?
 - b. Our Christian brothers and sisters in the local church?
 - c. Our unbelieving neighbors and co-workers?
5. What are some very practical ways to "Count others more important than ourselves"?

Partner:

** Consider dividing up your group (men with men; women with women) for this section.

1. Christian author Mitali Perkins, when she was a Hindu, reached a crossroads where she had to make a decision whether to follow Christ. What crossroad are you at this week? What choices do you need to make?
2. Share any other prayer requests others have and commit to praying for them throughout the week.