

Saturday

Please finish up any devotions you may have missed and be sure you know this week's memory verse. As you look back over the Philippians passage this week what has meant the most to you? What concepts will you strive to remember and develop in your life?

Please pray for this weekend's services. Pray that as we enter the Christmas season our church will be a beacon of hope and comfort to our community.

Some questions adapted from "Philippians Study Guide" by NavPress

Heaven Came Down

WEEK 1

heaven & nature

This weekend we begin a 3-part series on the incarnation, leading up to the Christmas Concert, "Heaven and Nature Sings," on December 17–20.

What is the "incarnation" and why is it important?

1. The Reality: _____

• Jesus is _____

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God..."
Philippians 1:5,6a "He had always been God by nature..." (*Philips translation*)

• Jesus became _____

"But [he] made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."
Philippians 2:7 (See *Colossians 1:15–16*)

How was Jesus like us?

- _____ like us (*Luke 2:6–7*)
- _____ like us (*Luke 2:52*)
- _____ like us (*Hebrews 4:15*)
- _____ like us (*Matthew 26:38*)

2. The Reason: _____

"And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" *Philippians 2:8*

Why did He do it?

- To _____
"But God showed **his great love for us** by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." *Romans 5:8 (NLT)*
- To _____
"He used his servant body to carry our sins to the Cross **so we could be rid of sin, free to live the right way.**" *1 Peter 2:24 (The Message)*

3. The Result: _____

“Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and **every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:9–11

4. The Relevance: I need to _____

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...” *Philippians 1:5a*

QUESTION: How can I have this same attitude in _____ ?

The bottom line:

Have _____ love!

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Philippians 2:4-6. Because He was in very nature God, Jesus had the right to all the worship the Father had. Yet according to verse 6, what was Jesus' attitude toward his rights?

Why do you think people today are so aware of their rights? How does this impact their decisions and relationships?

In what way can you put Jesus' attitude toward His rights into practice in your life this week?

Thank God today for sending Jesus. Thank Him for the opportunity to learn. Talk to Him about your struggles when it comes to thinking about your “rights”. Pray that your attitude will be the same as Jesus’.

Tuesday

Please read Philippians 2:7. There are other scriptures that stress that Jesus remained fully God even while on earth (read Colossians 1:19, 2:9 and Hebrews 1:3). So of what did Jesus “empty Himself” in becoming human?

Why is it important to understand that Jesus is fully human and fully divine?

If you were God and decided to become human, what do you think would be the hardest part for you?

Think for a moment of the fantastic transition Jesus went through to become the Christ child we sing about at Christmas time. Now thank Him for His willingness to be humbled in this way!

Wednesday

Please read Philippians 2:8. Jesus had the “likeness and appearance of a man” – he had human feelings, temptations – that had to be humbling for Jesus. But according to this verse what was his ultimate humiliation?

Why was Jesus willing to go through this?

Thank God today for the salvation that you have because of Jesus' willingness to endure the humiliation of the cross. Pray that you will increasingly adopt Jesus' attitude and perspective on life.

Thursday

Please read 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 9:26, 1 Peter 2:24 and 1 John 4:10. According to these verses why was Jesus' death necessary? Why wasn't it enough for Him to simply come down from heaven and teach us how to live?

Please read Philippians 2:9–11. According to these verses, everyone will eventually call Jesus “Lord”. If you haven't made Him the Lord of your life yet, why not do it now (beat the rush!)?

How has making Jesus Lord impacted your life?

Talk to God today about the areas of your life where you are reluctant to give Him control. Thank God for His love for you. Pray that your life will reflect God's love and be an encouragement to others.

Friday

Please re-read Philippians 2:5. Now that you've spent a week studying what Christ did when He came to earth, how do you feel when you read Paul's statement, “Let your attitude be the same as that of Christ Jesus”?

How can you, in some specific way, begin to manifest this kind of attitude this week?

How can you apply this during the Christmas season at church?

Ask God to help you have a Christ-like attitude toward your friends, family and others this week!



“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus”
Philippians 2:5 (NIV)