

Message Thoughts

Describe your funniest or most painful foot-in-mouth experience.

Discussion

Notes for discussion leader in italics. If it's helpful to read these thoughts to the group, go for it!

Have someone read Philippians 2:1-11. Now read the same passage from the Message paraphrase.

"If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father."

What, if anything, jumps out at you after hearing this paraphrase?

OK, we see that we're supposed to follow Jesus' example and exhibit humility. What does that look like?

"Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead."

"Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand."

What does humility NOT mean?

It doesn't mean low self esteem, beating yourself up for failing, letting people walk all over us, being a wimp.

What are some more practical examples of living out the value of humility?

What is a situation or relationship in your life where you need to show a little more humility?

Share if you feel comfortable.

Prayer

We're going to spend a little time praying for someone else's needs and try to "put yourself aside, and help others get ahead." Moving clockwise around the circle, pray out loud for the person on your left. It doesn't have to be anything flowery or lengthy, just a brief, honest prayer for that person. *Leader, start it out and wrap things up at the end.*