

## GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

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**Read Philippians 2:5-11** Make 2-3 observations of what you see in the text and note any questions you have. Try to answer your questions by using information you find in the passage. Then answer some or all of the questions below.

Paul tells the Philippians to have the same mindset as Christ.

Why does he command this?

What does he mean by “mindset”?

How does this fit with his larger point about unity?

How does this fit with his even larger point about heavenly citizenship?

Verse 6 says that Jesus was “in very nature God.”

What does this mean? Why does it matter?

Verse 7 says Jesus took the “nature of a servant” and “human likeness.”

What does it mean? Why does it matter?

Why does it matter that Jesus was the active agent who humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, instead of being a passive agent who was humbled by death on the cross? What is the difference? What does it reveal about Jesus?

Verse 9 says God exalted Jesus. Does this mean that Jesus was “promoted” by God as a reward for his obedience, or does it mean he was vindicated by God and revealed for who he always was? What is the difference? Why does it matter?

Why is it significant that God shares The Name (YHWH) with Jesus?

What does this mean for how we are to understand who Jesus is and has been through all time?

How might this inform our reading of the Old Testament?

Why does Paul list three levels (above, on, below) in verse 10?

How does this mirror the 3-tiered cosmos of Hebrew thought?

What is the significance of ALL creation bowing before Jesus?

Think practically, what would it mean for you to live out the mindset of Jesus in your relationships with your family, your church, your broader community?

Where might Jesus be inviting you to imitate his self-emptying nature?

How can you take a concrete step of obedience this week?

*Bonus!* Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12 - This Isaiah passage is one of the four “Servant Songs” and is known as the song of the “Suffering Servant.” What connections do you see between the servant song of Isaiah and the Christ hymn of Philippians?

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