

# Connecting Group Study Guide

## *Knowing, Growing, Going*

Week of April 10-16, 2016

### Follow-up

1. Start by sharing with each other about your previous week.
2. In what ways did your group apply the *Going* piece from last week? How did your group reach out to others in the spirit of “right-making”?
3. Is there another step you can look to make to take this “right-making” further in imitation of Jesus Christ?

### Knowing God

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

In this week’s passage the apostle Paul is calling and challenging the church at Philippi to look to and follow the example of Jesus Christ. The clear emphasis of this passage is upon humility and even suffering for the sake of others. Philippi was a Greco-Roman colony known for boasting. People would pay for plaques, statues, etc. to be erected in honor of themselves or family members. Engraved on these items would be lists of benevolent deeds, important titles, and so on. The purpose of this was to raise up the name and stature of a person and their family in the eyes of the community.

1. In light of this background what insights about God (his character, behavior, etc.) are revealed within this week’s Scripture passage?
2. In light of this week’s sermon, how does this passage address the topics of suffering, compassion and God’s involvement with His creation?

### Growing in Christ-likeness

1. Look closely at the language of 2:6-8 and 2:9-11. What differences in the language do you notice? Who is doing the action in each section?
2. Read Luke 18:14; James 4:10; and 1 Peter 5:6. What are the obvious parallels between these verses and Philippians 2:6-11?
3. If Jesus is our example of humility, what does humility look like? What does it take to embrace an attitude and life of humility like Jesus exhibited for the world?

### Going to Our Neighbors and the World

1. Humility according to Christ and the Scriptures involves entrusting ourselves to the care of the Father, the love of the Son and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Share with the group and area or person in your context in which you can demonstrate more humility.
2. Action Step: This week think of someone you need to demonstrate humility toward. Submit to do something for them in a way that: (1) you will not receive any credit for it and (2) they will be encouraged and lifted up.

Close in prayer together.