

**A Servant's Heart:
Humility****Background**

- Philippians is a letter written by Paul, a follower of Jesus, to the Philippians (a church in Philippi). The Philippians had been facing significant persecution and Paul, in-part, was writing to encourage them.
- "Servant" in biblical times means something different than it does now. In this passage, it is translated from the Greek word *doulos*, which is also translated as slave. The cultural connotation was a person who gives up ALL their rights to serve someone else.

Observe: What's there?

- Look for repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, and cause and effect.
- Note characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, and reactions.
- Imagine yourself in the story. What do you see, hear, and smell?

Interpret: What does it mean?

- Develop some questions based on your observations. What stirs your curiosity?
- Imagine the perspective of the people in the scene.
- Answer your questions from the text and context.
- Why is this passage or story here? Try to summarize it in one sentence.

Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV)

—— **PRAY** (to lead into the study)

Start with Introduction

- If there are any new people, have everyone introduce themselves!
- Ask a transition question:

What motivates you to serve or do nice things for others?

(Leave space to think, have 2-3 people share)

Background Leader's Notes

- Go through the background/context of the passage, keep it brief.
- State the transition to next part of the study: reading out loud, reading silently, then observations.

—— **READ OUT LOUD** (go around, have each person read 2-3 verses)

- Transition: Explain observations and say what to look for during silent reading.

—— **READ SILENTLY** (~10 minutes, adjust as needed)

Observe Leader's Notes

- Have people list observations, try to avoid answering questions right now. The goal is for people to list observe and discuss before interpreting.
- Transition: Ask if there are any remaining observations/questions, then start interpretation (answering discussion questions).

Interpret: Leader's Notes

- Go through the questions one at a time, try to have multiple people answer the question with their ideas.
- When done with questions, ask people to silently summarize the main point of the passage in 1-2 sentences (Give 2-3 minutes to write it down)

Leader's Main Point: This passage helps us consider the cost Jesus paid when He came to earth as a human and that he sacrificed for us while we were still sinning. In considering Jesus' love, we should do the same.

—— **SHARE MAIN POINT** (Rapid-fire share around the circle)

Application Leader's Notes

- Read the application question out loud, allow for ~5 minutes to think and write applications down.

Spend time brainstorming all the different people you regularly interact with (friends, classmates, coworkers, patients) and think of ways you could be a Christ-like servant to them this week.

- Have people share as willing (You can write them down to ask about later!)

—— **PRAY** (to exit the study)