

**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)

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Application: *So what?*

(Tear this off as a reminder for the week)

As you end your study, reflect on how Jesus may be inviting you to apply these passages to your life:

- 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.

Write your personal application commitment here: