



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Philippians 2:1-4

How to Live _____

In A _____ World.

Philippians 2:3

Think of Yourself _____ and of Others _____.

Philippians 2:3-4

_____ Less In Yourself And _____ Into Others.

Philippians 2:1-2

Philippians 1:27-30

Philippians 2:1

Ephesians 4:31-32

Who Does Your _____ Revolve

_____ ?

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Selflessly, Selfish / Less, More / Invest, More / World, Around



Group Time

◀◀◀ **LOOK BACK:**

1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y/N	Y/N	_____
_____	_____	

3. Review last week’s lesson.

What scary God challenge did you attempt this past week?

LOOK UP:

Question: In any endeavor, what’s the most significant strategy to make sure you finish on top?

1. Review your notes from the Gathering Time (Sermon).
2. **Context:** This week we come upon two of the most counter-cultural – today’s culture – verses in the Bible. (Keep in mind they are nowhere near the only ones.) Philippians 2:3-4 puts to rest the philosophy of, “You do you, I’ll do me.”

So, how does one put others first in a me-first world without being completely stepped on and run over? First, be prepared to treat some road burns. Next, know why you are doing what you are doing and be prepared to share that reason, even with those who are stepping on you and running you over.

Keep in mind, we wouldn’t step to the side or put others before us if they were dishonoring God, but the answer to the question above is knowing what you are trying to get on top of. If it’s to glorify God in all things, then you will need to sacrificially put others first in all things that glorify Him, just like He sacrificed Himself for you.

3. **Discussion:**

- How Christian are you behind the wheel, when playing a game, watching a beloved pro or college sports team, or watching your kids compete – in athletics or academics? What about politics?
- What is your “triggering” activity, that activity that brings out the not-so-Jesus-like in you?

Read Philippians 2:3-4.

- If you were to truly live this way in all things, are you worried you might be abused or that you would be a poor role model?

Read Philippians 2:1-2.

- Who should you care most about what they think?
- Who should you support in their efforts to live selflessly?
- How would you, should you, define family? Do you think verse 2 is a good start?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *The world revolves around Jesus. Act like you know this; the world doesn’t. It needs your help.*

- Think about your “triggering” activity above. What do you need to start or stop doing with this to live out Philippians 2:3-4?

Put it to practice this week. Intentionally put yourself in a position to do so and share the result next week.

God Time Day 1: A Selfish World



On a scale of 1= unselfish to 5 = selfish, rate the following:

- How political leaders determine their position(s): ____
- How business leaders determine their decisions: ____
- How you make your life decisions: ____

It doesn't take much exposure to the world to see how strong the tendency to selfishness is. In today's culture it often leads to a disregard for biology, grammar, and common sense to avoid the possibility of making someone uncomfortable by refusing to endorse their selfish delusions.

This idea of "canceling" and/or cutting off all contact with anyone who doesn't embrace or enhance "my life" is completely opposite to the way of Jesus.



Read 1 John 2:16.

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world.

God Time Day 2: Living Selflessly



When we recognize how opposite the world's view is from the way of Jesus, it should bring our attention to His commands and His example of a different way to live. While we'll look directly at His example more next week, this week can help us prepare:



Read Philippians 2:3.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

What first comes to mind when you read "consider others as more important?"

If your first thought is that it makes you feel worthless, take this to God in prayer. This week we'll learn where the joy of true worth comes from.

God Time Day 3: Think of Others More



When we let go of our fears of not getting what we need if we don't invest in ourselves, and know that Christ is sufficient for us, it frees us to invest in others.



Read Philippians 2:3-4.

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. ⁴ Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.

Service to self is built upon the goals of power, control, and domination over others. It leads to a state of spiritual separation, fear, and darkness.

Service to others is built upon helping, serving, and supporting others. It leads to spiritual unity, love, and joy.

Consider the contrast between pride and humility. The Bible tells us that the devil was cast out of heaven because in pride he wanted to usurp God's place as ruler. As a result, he is filled with bitterness, anger, and a desire to pervert anything good. (Isaiah 14; Revelation 12) But of the angels who remained faithful, we see a picture of constant joy in worship and serving. (Job 38:7; Revelation 4-5)



Read James 4:6 (NIV).

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

Based on this verse, put in your own words what will happen when you are focused on serving yourself:

What will happen instead when you humbly serve others?



If selfishness and pride are issues needing to be dealt with in your Christian walk, take a moment right now to repent. Tell God you are sorry for the way you've put yourself first, before others, and even before Him. Make Jesus your king, your LORD, and choose one selfless act you can take today to rejoice in the forgiveness He gives to you.

God time Day 4: Invest in Others



A willingness to intentionally serve others is essential to maintaining unity.



Read Philippians 1:27; 2:1-2 (NIV).

1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.

2:1 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.

Underline how Paul says to conduct yourselves (v. 27).

To understand how to *conduct yourself in a manner worthy of Christ*, underline the words that complete each of these statements:

- V. 1:27: *I will know that you stand firm ...*
- V. 1:27: *Striving together ...*
- V. 2:1: *If you have any encouragement from ...*
- V. 2:1: *If any common ...*
- V. 2:2: *Make my joy complete by ...*
- V. 2:2: *Having the same love ...*

Do you see how much importance Paul places on unity?



List at least three ways you either are currently serving or can begin serving others to foster unity:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Even if you are physically unable to join with others, you can still pray and receive others' care with grace – no excuses!

God Time Day 5: Who Does Your World Revolve Around?



We often get wrapped up in the world's way of thinking and living. It drains us of spiritual power, and we lose our joy. As Corrie Ten Boom said, "If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God, you'll be at rest." Keeping God first allows all other things to fall into their proper place.



Read Psalm 94:17-19 (NIV).

17 Unless the Lord had given me help, I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death. 18 When I said, "My foot is slipping," your unfailing love, Lord, supported me. 19 When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.

To help us apply this week's idea, we can use the letters in "Joy" to help us:

J is for Jesus – He is the one we worship, the one to whom we give thanks for all blessings. He is the one who gave up all His privilege to serve us. He is our example. We must keep our focus on Jesus, our true source of life.

O is for Others – Once we entrust our lives, our priorities, our well-being, and our future to God (humility), we are freed from the compulsion to make everything about "me." Instead, we can put other people ahead of self, and devote our energies to blessing and serving them for the sake of the gospel and the Kingdom.

Y is for You – Putting oneself in last place is the exact opposite of the world's way. But God has promised that putting Him first and devoting ourselves to serving others will bring its own reward – in time.

Review the past five days. Does your daily routine reflect these **J-O-Y** priorities? If not, make a plan to devote yourself to more worship and service beginning today. Then a week from now, consider your level of joy.

4G Guide Survey:
 Help us serve you better. Complete this brief survey. Use the QR or click the Survey Link at cbcfamily.net/4G.



Family Time



Main Idea:

Serving

**Key Verse: Matthew 25: 35-40**

³⁵ “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or without clothes and clothe you?’ ³⁹ When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

**Experiment:**

You will need 3 colors of food coloring, 4 cups, a paper towel, a spoon, and water.

Fill 3 of the cups about 2/3 of the way with water. Add 10-15 drops of one color of food coloring to each cup and stir. Rinse the spoon off in between stirring each color. Now, you should have 3 distinct and strong colors of water.

Position the cups of colored water in a triangle and place the empty cup in the middle. The cups of colored water should each be about 3 inches from the empty one.

Cut 3 strips of a paper towel ½ to 1 inch wide and about 6 inches long.

Put one end of one of the strips of paper towel in the empty cup and the other end in one of the cups of colored water. Take a second strip and put one end in the empty cup and the other end in a different cup of colored water. Do the same with the third cup.

Watch for a minute and then let the cups sit for about 5 minutes. The colored water will move through the paper towel and fill what was an empty cup.



Ask: How long did it take for the water to start moving into the paper towel when it was placed in the cup?

What did the water in the center cup look like after the 5 minutes? What color is it?



Read: Philippians 2:1-4.

Discussion: How does this scripture passage remind you of the experiment we just did?

Let’s say the middle cup represents someone who has a need. Maybe this is someone who is poor and doesn’t have enough money to rent a place for his family to live. All the cups of colored water represent Christ followers who want to live as God wants them to live. What does this scripture say we should do to help?

**Pray:**

Lord, help us to reach out to those that are around us and help them. It is not easy to put others first; help us as a family to put others before ourselves. Amen.