



### **Opening Up:**

If someone were to serve you well, what would they do for you?

Is it easier to give or receive service? Be honest. Why?

(Note: Servanthood is not valued very highly in most human cultures, but in the Christian community it is a prized virtue. In our scripture today, Paul challenges all who follow Jesus to imitate his humility by taking on the attitudes and actions of a servant.)

### **Read: Philippians 2:1-11**

### **Discuss:**

1. How does Paul describe and define humility in this passage? (2:1-4)
2. What do you think it means to "consider others better than yourselves?" Why is this hard?
3. How is Christlike humility different from being a human "doormat?"
4. What aspects of "selfish ambition" or "vain conceit" are you most prone to?(2:3)
5. If you were standing in for Jesus in this humble position, what would you find most difficult about serving humanity? (2:5-8)
6. What motivation does Paul give you in this passage for living a humble life of service and how do they help us? (Note: What should our minds be thinking about?)
7. In Philippians 2 and in James 4:6, 10 we learn about how God honors humility. Why is humility essential for community to be experienced?
8. Humble people are able to see beyond their own needs and wants and are able to see the needs and wants of others. How is the inability to see the needs and wants of others the source of human conflict? (Note: Seek examples from home life, work life, friendships, nationally, or internationally.)
9. Who do you admire for their willingness to truly put the interests of others ahead of their own?
10. What is one specific way you can demonstrate the joy of serving someone this coming week by seeking their interests and counting them more significant than yourself?
11. Pray.