



WEEKLY STUDY

Week 4

This week we continued our summer series looking at the beliefs laid out in the words of the Apostles' Creed. We balanced last week's look at the humanity of Jesus Christ by looking at the divinity of Jesus. A continued look at Philippians 2 reveals that because of the humanity and humility of Jesus, God the Father lifted up Jesus and exalted him. This happened so that we could experience salvation and eternal life through Jesus. As you read, study, and pray this week, may you begin to get a sense of the impact of Jesus' humility and obedience on the life that you are now called to live.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this prayer from Pastor Angela or your own prayer.

O God, my Almighty Father, I believe in you. I believe in you, Jesus. I believe you are God's only son. I believe you were conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. I believe you suffered, were crucified, dead, and were buried. I believe you descended to the dead and rose again on the third day. I believe you ascended into heaven and are seated at the Father's right hand. I believe you will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in you, Holy Spirit. And in the Holy Catholic Church. I believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, I believe; help my unbelief. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: PHILIPPIANS 2.9-11

*Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

- Therefore, because of his obedience, Jesus was lifted up to the place of highest honor. I wonder if Jesus, in all of his humanity, ever felt the weight of the risk he was willing to take. When was the last time you put all of your power or status on the line for someone else? The promise here is that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and tongue confess that he is Lord.
- *Jesus, thank you for your willingness to humble yourself in human flesh so that I might know God.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 14.1-4

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”

- The return of Jesus is a promise that we don’t always pay attention to. In John 14, Jesus tells his disciples that he is going away from this earthly presence that they have known, but that it is in order to bring them with him to the presence of God. When everything is ready...followers of Jesus will see heaven. This promise is one that believers have been waiting on for thousands of years now. God is patient with us, but we are also eager to see Him. How is our anticipation of Heaven at odds with the manner in which we are waiting?
- *Come Lord Jesus, return to us and bring your peace.*

WEDNESDAY: COLOSSIANS 1.19-20

*For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,
²⁰and through him God reconciled
everything to himself.
He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth
by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.*

- The fullness of God was living in the man Jesus who walked around on the earth. In His Son, God was completely here with us. And Paul tells us why God was willing to do that. It was to bring reconciliation between God and His creation. He made peace. Are there moments even in this chaotic world, that you experience peace through Jesus Christ?
- *God, you were pleased to stoop down to our level. We have seen your fullness. Help us to embrace your offer of reconciliation.*

THURSDAY: JAMES 4.7-10

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

- James’ words might seem harsh, but following them leads to the promise of verse 10. Humble yourself and God will lift you up. The sorrow, deep grief, sadness and gloom are not a place God wants us to remain. Instead, through them, we can experience a lifted-up life.
- *God, may I be willing to walk through the difficult path of humility so that you may lift me up for your glory.*

FRIDAY: ROMANS 12.15-16

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

- Who are the lowly that you are called to associate with? What prevents you from doing so? Paul is revealing what Christian community looks like. It can be messy and it can require great humility in order to live in harmony. Pride is often seen as a better virtue than humility and compassion.
- *Jesus, I humble myself before you today. In doing so, I humble myself in my interactions with those who have a lower status than myself. Forgive me of my pride.*

SATURDAY: MICAH 6.8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

- Jesus has shown us the way. As we follow him, we recognize that he was following the way laid out by the prophet Micah. Walking humbly with God is something that Jesus demonstrated with his entire life, death, and resurrection. How does his pattern of living inform your daily life?
- *God, you are not a distant God. You have come to us in the form of Jesus and demonstrated how to live a good life that honors you. Give me courage to walk in that way today.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Mark said,

“Jesus didn’t come to earth, die, rise from the dead, and go to heaven just as some kind of exercise of God’s power – it was so we could do it too. Something we could never do on our own, is now possible because Jesus Christ is God and yet became one of us to show us the way to raise to new life. In Jesus, the lowly become lifted up.”

- When have you seen the lowly being lifted up? Is “lowly” a label you ever use for yourself?
- The down-up movement of God reveals God’s heart for His creation. God has shown us a different way of exercising power. Jesus shows us a new kind of leadership. Where are you being called to lower yourself for the sake of others? Why is it so difficult for powerful people to also demonstrate humility?