

STUDY GUIDE: “Be The Church”

Discussion Starters

1. Give an example of a time that you experienced a failure of a plan, due to conflict among the people involved
2. Have you ever been impressed by someone’s humility? Explain.

Study

3. Read through the account of Adam in Genesis 1-3. Compare him to Jesus in Philippians 2:6-11

To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASB, but the word you are trying to define is the Greek or Hebrew word translated by the NASB—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

4. Define the following words or terms. Note for each of them how understanding the meaning and background of that word better helped you understand this passage.

--“love” (Philippians 2:1)—

--“selfishness” (Philippians 2:3) —

--“attitude” (Philippians 2:5)—

--“humbled” (Philippians 2:8)—

--“highly exalted” (Philippians 2:9)—

Read Philippians 2:1-11

5. What were some of the early church's biggest threats to unity? (Use a search engine like google or your own knowledge of the Bible to find some instances where conflict in the church is brought up. Please note that the "early church" consists of the time from the book of Acts to the book of Revelation.)

6. Examine the statements about Jesus in verses 6-11. What are some things that Paul asserts about Jesus through His humility and subsequent exalting?

7. Pick 3-4 of the above statements and reflect on their meaning on your life and Christian faith. Write them below.

Taking It Home

8. What are some of the contemporary (worldwide) church's biggest threats to unity?

9. What can you do this week to put others before yourself?