

The Heart of Humility

Teaching your kids
to put others first.

Use alone or as a
companion to our
Write Through the
Bible curriculum!



A family study of Philippians 2:1-18

By Luke Gilkerson

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INTRODUCTION

As parents, there are different ways we can help our children understand the Word of God. The first and probably most common way is by giving them a broad understanding of Scripture. By reading through major Bible stories and events, year after year, we give them “the big picture” of the Bible from beginning to end. This is vital for them to develop a Biblical worldview.

Second, we can spend time drilling deep to specific books or passages. We teach our children the value of contemplating a single word or phrase, showing them just how rich the Bible can be. This models for our children the art of studying the Bible in all its fullness and teaches them to pause and reflect all the words God has inspired.

This family devotional is an example of the second way. It will help your children grasp the rich truths contained in Philippians 2:1-18.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

There are at least a couple ways you could use this family devotional.

You could spend 30 days in a row, working through one lesson each day. This will immerse your children in the passage.

You could spend 30 weeks doing one lesson each week. You might choose to do this over the duration of one school year.

I would suggest using not one, but both of these approaches, particularly if you will be memorizing this passage of Scripture. Spend 30 days going through this study to acquaint your family with the text prior to memorizing the text. This will help them understand why you are memorizing it. Then, use the Bible study weekly throughout the year to study this Scripture at a slower pace and reinforce the lessons that were already covered once.

Make it a Goal to Memorize

Over the next several months or throughout an entire school year, make a commitment to memorize all of Philippians 2:1-18 as a family.

There is great benefit to memorizing Scripture, and an added benefit to memorizing a lengthier text like this. Memorizing a whole chapter or longer passage gives our children a sense of context. They can begin seeing how to interpret the Bible, seeing how to read a whole section of Scripture in context.

Why Memorize Philippians 2:1-18?

There are many texts in the Bible worth memorizing. Why is Philippians 2:1-18 such a good passage learn?

First, if you're looking for a good passage that marries central Christian beliefs and important Christian ethics, Philippians 2 is great for this. It is hard to find a more compact section of Scripture that equips kids with both foundational beliefs and vital moral lessons.

Second, this passage teaches one of the central pillars of Christians character: humility. Learning what it means to esteem others more important than yourself is a lifelong process. These 18 verses pack in more than a dozen motivations for why we should pursue a life of humility.

Third, the passage contains one of the most concise and rich accounts of Jesus' incarnation, life, death, and exaltation. As we teach our kids what it means to be humble and put others first, as we teach ourselves this, this text helps us to see Jesus as our ultimate example and the one we worship.

For some, 18 verses might sound like a lot, but it takes less than two minutes to read.

Memory Method: Using Scripture Memory Cards

One of the best ways to move Scripture from short-term to long-term memory is to use a Charlotte-Mason-style "memory box."

You'll find free printouts on our site <http://intoxicatedonlife.com/freebies/> . There Philippians 2:1-18 is divided into manageable sections (2-3 verses) on individual index cards.

You'll also find printable tabbed dividers to help organize your cards available to download for free on our website <http://intoxicatedonlife.com/freebies/>. You'll find...

- A tab marked "Daily"
- A tab marked "Odd Days" and another marked "Even Days"
- Weekly tabs (a tab for each day of the week)
- Monthly tabs (tabs numbered 1-30)

Here's how it works:

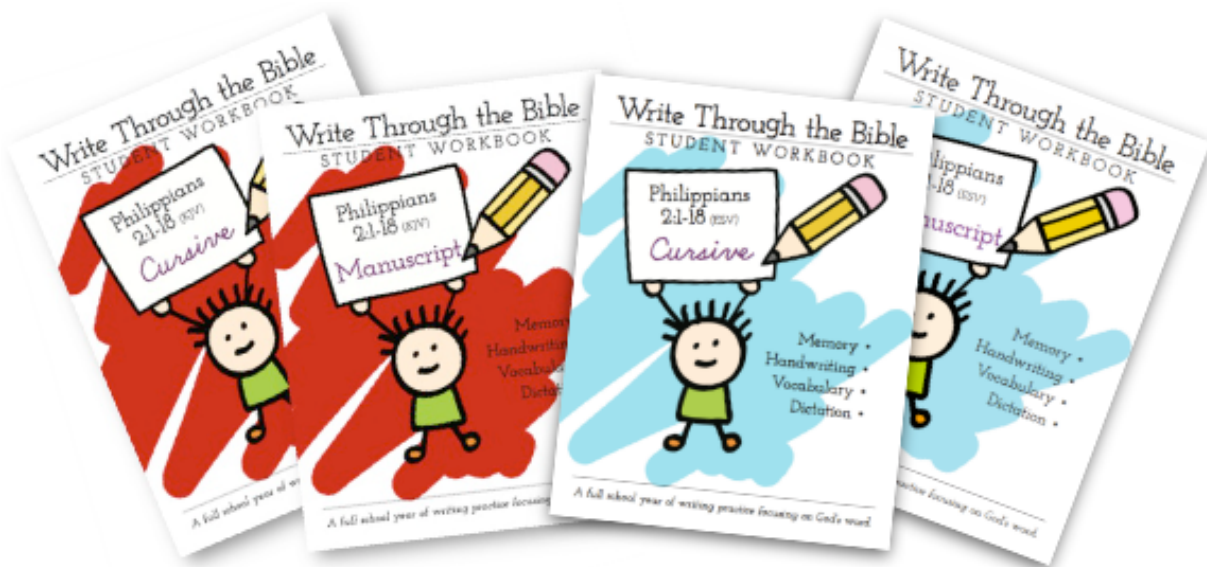
1. Place all your tabbed dividers into the box in order.
2. Start by placing the first Philippians card behind the "Daily" tab. Review this card with your child daily, having him or her recite it aloud every day.
3. Once your child can quote an entire card from memory with ease, move it back to either the "odd" tab or "even" tab. Then, only review that card on odd or even dates of the month.
4. Once your child continues to quote the card without help for a couple weeks, move it back to one of the weekly tabs.
5. If they can quote the card several weeks in a row without help, then move it back to one of the monthly tabs.
6. As cards move out from behind the daily tab, add new cards to the daily memory time.

Use Handwriting to Teach

In Deuteronomy 17:18-19, the kings of Israel were commanded to write out for themselves a copy of the law of Moses so that they could read it all the days of their lives. God clearly sees value in not only reading the Bible daily, but also in copying the text of the Bible by hand.

A good way to reinforce Scripture memory (and practice handwriting skills) is to copy Bible passages by hand. **As a companion to this Bible study, you can get a copy of our Philippians 2 version of *Write Through the Bible*, available at IntoxicatedOnLife.com.**

These workbooks take 135 days to complete, about one school year, and combines the disciplines of handwriting, dictation, vocabulary, and Bible memory into one daily activity. The Write Through the Bible downloadable workbooks are available in both manuscript and cursive and in either KJV or ESV translations.



Praying the “Philippians Prayer” for Your Kids

Nearly anyone can memorize a long text if they are motivated. But only God can use that text to change hearts. This is why we must pray, just as the apostle Paul did, that the truths of this letter will penetrate our children’s hearts and develop their character.

As your kids spend a lot of time in Philippians, set aside time each day or each week to pray for your kids the same way Paul prayed for the church in Philippi. In Philippians 1:9-11, Paul told the church how he prayed for them.

“And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Paul prayed for two primary things for his friends in Philippi: (1) that their love would grow deeper and richer, and (2) that their knowledge and discernment would expand. Paul believed if these two things were growing they would become people who could choose not just what is *good*, but what is *best* (or “excellent”).

The more the Philippians were motivated by love, the more they would *want* what is best for others and themselves. The more their love was informed by insight and knowledge, the more they would *know* what is best.

As they chose the things that were best, three things would be the result: (1) they would be sincere or pure in their faith as they anticipated the Day of Christ, (2) they would be blameless or without offense, and (3) they would be filled with the fruit of righteousness.

Make this a prayer for your children as they memorize Philippians 2:1-18:

“Lord, I want my children to be sincere, blameless, and righteous as they look forward to the Day of Christ. So, deepen their love and grow their knowledge so they become people who choose what is best in life. Amen.”

THE HEART OF HUMILITY

Teaching your children to put others first.

LESSON 16:

The Example of Humility: Jesus, the One Who Let Go

Opening Thought:

Picture the most powerful ruler in the world. Picture him sitting on a high throne and everyone in the world coming to him to serve him. Picture him wearing a golden crown with the most expensive jewels in it. No one is more powerful than him. Now picture him taking off his crown, putting on normal clothes, and walking around the street like just anyone else. People might not even recognize him.

Today we're going to see how this applies to Jesus.

Scripture Reading: Read Philippians 2:5-11

Explanation: If I were to point at a chair and say, "That is in the form of a chair," what do I mean? I mean it has all the things a chair is supposed to have. It has legs. It has a back. It has a seat. It is shaped a certain way. It is a chair in every way.

That's what Paul means when he says Jesus is in the "form of God": He has all the essential qualities of being God. God knows everything; so does Jesus. God is all-powerful; so is Jesus. God is everywhere and sees everything; so does Jesus. God is perfectly wise; so is Jesus. God has always existed; so has Jesus. Jesus is 100% divine. He is equal to God in every way because He *is* God. Before Jesus was born as a man, He existed as God.

But Paul says Jesus didn't cling to His rights as God. He could have stayed in the same position of glory forever. But He didn't. He chose to do something amazing. He let go of his majesty, rights, and privileges as God and become a man.

He is like the king who stepped down from his throne, took off his crown, put on street clothes, and walked around like a normal man. Just because he looked different doesn't mean he wasn't still the king. He was still the same man. But that king was setting aside his privileges as king. He wouldn't be surrounded by the same comforts. People wouldn't give him the same respect. People would just treat him like they treat everyone else.

This is one way Jesus was so humble. He didn't cling to his rights. He didn't say to Himself, "I'm God! There's no way I'm going to become a man." He didn't say, "I like it here in heaven. There's no way I'm leaving." He didn't cling to his privileges as God. He let go.

This is what it means for us to be humble and serve others. We surrender our rights. We don't say, "But I want others to pay attention to me. There are things I want to do. There's no way I'm going to act like someone else's servant." Being humble means letting go of the things we want to do and gladly serving others.

Questions for Your Kids:

1. When we say Jesus was in the form of God, what does that mean? *(It means Jesus is like God in every way. Have you kids talk about some of the attributes of God, like omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, etc.)*
2. What would have happened if Jesus decided to cling to his rights as God? *(He would never have come to earth as a man. This means He would have never died on the cross for our sins, and we would not be forgiven for all our sins.)*
3. If someone needs help, but we're more focused on our own desires and rights at the time, are we more or less likely to help them? *(Less likely. If we cling to our rights, we want others to pay attention to us and serve us. But if we surrender our desires, we are free to serve others around us.)*

Prayer: Pray God will make you and everyone in your home more like Jesus, willing to give up our desires and comforts to serve one another. Ask God to change your hearts so you don't desire to cling to your rights, but so you are willing to give them up to serve others.