

YOBL

Year of Biblical Literacy

Week 45: The value of Humility

Daily Reading for Week

- 1 Corinthians 13-14, Psalm 147
- 1 Corinthians 15-16, Psalm 148
- 2 Corinthians 1-2, Psalm 149
- 2 Corinthians 3-4, Psalm 150
- 2 Corinthians 5-6, Psalm 1
- 2 Corinthians 7-8, Psalm 2
- 2 Corinthians 9-10, Psalm 3
- Read Scripture Video: 2 Corinthians

Focus of time together

We will focus on the humility of Jesus and Paul's exhortation to practice humble servanthood while boasting in our weaknesses. We will then engage in an intentional exercise to get us practicing humility with one another

Connecting Exercise

When in your life have you felt the neediest or most desperate for help? How did this experience of neediness cause you to act?

Opening Prayer

Intro to Discussion

It takes humility to serve, and it takes humility to allow ourselves to be served. Jesus says in John 13:13-17 that humility is what it means to be part of the Kingdom of God, it's to do as He did and lower oneself to the place of servant.

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

(John 13:13-17)

Later in the New Testament, Paul would exhort the church in Philippi similarly, telling them to imitate Jesus' humility, which was displayed in His willingness to take the place of a servant.

One of the greatest challenges to following Jesus as a community is expanding our capacity to confess need, ask for help, and depend upon one another.

Learning to live in this kind of humble interdependence will be a necessary and indeed counter-cultural project that could have an incredibly renewing impact on the people and places around us.

Whole Group Discussion

Discovery Bible Method

This week we will be using the discovery bible method to help us go deeper into scripture.

Ask each person how they went with the previous week's commitment.

- "How did you go with _____?"
- "Who did you tell?"

Choose a short passage from the one of those you've read this week (around 5-10 verses).

- Have someone read it aloud, then ask someone else to re-read the passage.
- Have the participants retell the story from memory.
- Spend some minutes silently reading the passage again.
- Silently pray for God to speak directly from the passage.

Ask open-ended questions, such as:

- "What do you see?"
- "What does this say about God?"
- "What does this say about us?"
- "What is God saying to you?"

Let the participants do most of the talking and don't be afraid of silences.

If the session veers off course, you can ask,

"Where do you see that in the Bible?"

Let them suggest their own commitment to whatever God is saying to them.

Ask them:

- "What are you going to do?"
- "Who are you going to tell?"

Questions for Practicing Community

These exercises/questions are to help us reflect thoughtfully on our felt experiences together as community and provides opportunities to build on it further.

Read

Read John 13:1-17, Philippians 2:1-18, and 2 Corinthians 12:1-10.

Reflect

Sit silently for five minutes to reflect on the humility of Jesus and the invitation of God to boast in your weaknesses.

Take another five minutes to reflect silently on the following prompts:

1. What is one practical need that you have that others could help you with?
2. What is one way that someone in the group could help you with this need in the next week?

Note: We mean real tangible needs. This is not about prayer requests. For example:

1. What is a physical or circumstantial limitation you are experiencing that you cannot adequately overcome on your own?
2. Are you in financial need?
3. Are you experiencing any strong emotions that make you feel the need for comfort, company, or care?

Share

Practice vulnerability and humility both by being willing to share a need and request help from others as well as by being willing to help gently clarify the needs of others and sacrificially meet their needs. (A quick note about requests: they are not all automatically entitled to a “Yes” response. Sometimes requests must be met with a No, which happens when individuals take honest inventory of what kind of help they are capable of offering.)

Respond

As each person shares, allow the group to adequately respond before moving on. If more information is needed, ask clarifying questions. Once a need and request have been effectively communicated, pause for 30 seconds of silence to reflect on this request and then invite the group to respond. During the silence, consider:

1. Do you understand the request?
2. Does it seem like a fair request?
3. Are you able to meet the need as requested, or are there other ways you would like to offer your support?

Closing Prayer

Close your time by reading 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 aloud and praying for one another, expressing empathy for whatever you heard shared and confessing any pride or resistance this time stirred up in you.