



# NEED TO KNOW

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO HAVE A FAITH THAT SURVIVES & THRIVES IN A CHALLENGING WORLD  
A.K.A. THE LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

## Week 2: We need to know how to think & love. Philippians 1:27-2:5.

PARK  
CHURCH

For all our lives we have been taught what to think. The best of our teachers, parents, and leaders will teach us how to think. What Jesus wants is for us to think like HIM. In Philippians 1:9 Paul expresses this desire for his friends by praying that their love would abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment. As we take our next step in following Jesus, he wants us to think again, to think differently, and to think from the place of love.

**Read Philippians 1:27-30.** Last week we saw that all Paul cared about was more people hearing about Jesus. This week we learn the gospel must not only go wide but, also run deep.

- *What does a life “worthy of the Gospel of Christ” look like?*
- *What do you think of as the “opponents” to your faith?*

**Read Philippians 2:1-5.** Followers of Jesus have been entrusted with an incredible task. The local church is the vessel through which God offers hope to the world. Paul exhorts the church in Philippi to be united. Together, they could persevere despite the many and severe pressures from the world in which they lived. Paul gave warning to this church because he knew there was one thing that could destroy it from within and keep it from its mission; self-centeredness.

Dissect self-centeredness by brainstorming through the questions below. (don't linger too long here)

- *What does self-centeredness look like?*
- *How does it think?*
- *What message does it give to others?*
- *What does it say to God?*

It is natural for us to be self-centered. We need supernatural help to be humble. With the help of God's Spirit, we need to practice what Jesus said and did. He put his needs and wants (his will) aside for us. Verse 5 says, “Let this same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”

### Talk about this week's challenge to “take yourself out of the center.” PRAYER POINTS

1.) Face it when YOU ARE THE PROBLEM! Though difficult, it is healthy to confess our shortcomings to God and to admit our faults to ourselves and to others. Pause and think about this next question. Ask and allow the Holy Spirit to lead. *Is there any area where you have been the “problem” that might be helpful for you and/or the group to talk about?* Remember, we want to build one another up & we are asking God for humility.

2.) Be free! Believe God's promises to you! You don't need to watch out for you! Self-centeredness says to God: I don't think you have my best interest in mind. You are not doing what I want. You are not working according to my timetable, etc. *What does faith say?*

3.) *What concrete step will you take out of self-centeredness and into Christ-centeredness this week?*

Read Romans 15:5-6. Pray for one another.