

Bible Study Questions w/c 21 June 2026

Ice Breaker

What's a situation that can instantly test your patience? (Traffic? Slow internet? Queue jumping? DIY? Football? Work emails?)

Read Philippians 2:1-16 (NIV)

Setting the Scene

Paul writes from prison. Yet rather than asking people to feel sorry for him, he's concerned about something much bigger—the unity and witness of the church. His answer isn't: better organisation, stronger leadership, stricter rules. His answer is **Jesus**.

Our attitudes towards one another should reflect Christ's attitude towards us.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Paul begin with encouragement rather than commands? (vv1-2)

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ..."

What blessings does Paul remind them they already possess?

How does remembering what Christ has done help us relate better to one another?

2. What gets in the way of Christian unity? (vv3-4)

Paul mentions selfish ambition, vain conceit and looking only to our own interests.

Where do these attitudes appear today?

3. What is so remarkable about Jesus' example? (vv5-11)

Paul doesn't simply tell us to be humble. He points us to Christ.

What surprises or amazes you most about these verses?

Why is it important that Jesus is fully God as well as fully human?

4. "Work out your salvation..." (vv12-13)

This verse can sometimes confuse people. Read verses 12-13 again.

Who is doing the work? What is our responsibility? What is God's responsibility?

We don't work **for** salvation. We work **out** what God has already worked **in**. Christian growth is cooperation with God's transforming work.

5. Why does Paul mention grumbling? (vv14-16)

Why do you think Paul moves from the heights of Christ's humility to... "Do everything without grumbling or arguing"? How can complaining quietly damage:

- families?
- churches?
- workplaces?

Can you think of examples where a gracious attitude has stood out because it was so unusual?

6. Practical Reflection

Looking at this week ahead: Where am I most tempted to protect myself? Promote myself? Defend myself? Who might God be asking me to serve instead?