

"SIMPLY HAPPY"

Week 3

KEY PASSAGES:

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy...

Philippians 2:5-11 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 18:14 Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Philippians 2:3-5 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus..

Luke 9:23 Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow me.

John 15:11 "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

Phil 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Isaiah 64:8 You, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

John 17:13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them."

Hebrews 12:2 For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame...

Phil 2:8 He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

QUESTIONS:

1. Any notable play-doh stories, whether as an adult or child?
2. Share one experience in your past where you were absolutely humiliated (the more hilarious, the better).
3. Share one song or album that is deeply intertwined with a memorable time in your life.
4. In your words, explain the difference between humiliation and humility.
5. "Joy and relationships are inseparable." What's been your experience with this?
6. "All of us, every single one, has something to give--some degree of influence and resources to use... every human being has something they can give to serve and bless someone else." What are some things you'd say YOU have to give? (others are in the group are welcome to chime in!)
7. Philippians 2:3-5 is able to be distilled into the following bullet points. What areas are most difficult for you in developing these in your life?
 - do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit.
 - regard others as more important than yourselves
 - look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others
 - learn to think the way Jesus thinks.
8. Per Phil. 2:13 above, God does the heavy lifting in our growth, and our job is to be moldable and cooperative over the long haul. Are there areas in your live where you desire to be more moldable? Share as much as you're willing, then pray together as a group.