

THE WEEK AHEAD: Week 4



Philippians 2:5–11 are a wonderful picture of the humility and selflessness of Jesus. The studies this week focus on Jesus and his mission to rescue us from our sin.

Sunday

Read the passage that will be preached at the church service you attend. If English is your second language, read the passage in your own language and also in English.

On the other six days...

Day 1

*Re-read **Philippians 2:5–18** and think about the answers you gave to the study questions on pages 17–20.*

Memorize this week's memory verse:

“Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.”

Philippians 2:15–16

Ask God to help you to shine like a star among your family, friends and community.

Day 2

*Read **Isaiah 53:1–6**.*

These verses describe the suffering of God's “servant”. They were written about 700 years before Jesus was born. But notice how they describe so much of what would happen to Jesus.

1 Look at verses 2 and 3. What similarities can you find between the “servant” and Jesus Christ?

2 What does the servant's suffering achieve? (see verses 4 and 5)
(Note: “Transgressions” and “iniquities” are another way of describing sin.)

3 Why is this suffering necessary? (see verse 6)

Give thanks to God for the wonderful good news of Jesus and the extraordinary humility of God that he chose to suffer for us on the cross.

Day 3

*Read **Luke 15:11–32**.*

This passage is often called “The Parable of the Lost Son”. It is a wonderful picture of the compassion of God, who is represented by the father in this story.

1 What do we learn about the younger son from verses 11–17?

2 What changes do you see in the younger son in verses 17–19?

3 What surprises you about how verses 20–24 describe the father?
(Note: Remember that the father in this story represents God.)

4 What is the older son's attitude to his father/God? Why is this wrong? (see verses 25–31)

5 Are you like one of the sons? Which one?

6 How is the father/God gracious to both sons? (see verses 22, 28 and 31)

Thank God for the extraordinary nature of his fatherly compassion for you.

Day 4

Read **Colossians 1:15–23**.

We have already looked at a passage from this letter by Paul to the Christians in Colosse. These verses help us to understand who Jesus is.

1 Paul calls Jesus “the image of the invisible God” (verse 15). What does he mean? (see verse 19)

2 Paul also describes Jesus as “the firstborn over all creation” (verse 15). What does he mean by that, according to verses 16–18?

3 God created us to have a right relationship with him. Because of our sin, that relationship was broken and needs to be restored/fixed. How is this achieved? (see verse 20)

4 What does it mean to be reconciled with God? (see verses 21 and 22)

5 Read verse 23. How should we respond to what Jesus has done for us?

Think about the descriptions of Jesus in this passage and praise God for such a mighty Saviour. Pray that you will “continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel”.

Day 5

Re-read the Bible passages you have read over the past week. Choose a verse that you found particularly helpful, write it down in the space below and memorize it.

Day 6

Read **Philippians 3:1–9** in preparation for **Discipleship Explored**.