CHARIS YOUTH

Series: If You're Happy and You Know It

Lesson 2: Look at the Big Picture: Philippians 2

About This Lesson

The themes of the second chapter of Philippians are: be a team player, look to Jesus, live with purpose, and God will send people to help you. As the young people explore this chapter, they will see the importance of focusing on Jesus as they live in unity with other believers toward the goal of living with godly purpose.

Key Takeaway: Living with a focus on Jesus and living with purpose are keys to a joyful life.

Key Verse: Psalm 144:15 *Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!*

Teaching Outline:

I. REVIEW OF PHILIPPIANS 1

A. The spirit of faith is a joyful spirit!!!
   1. The joy of the Lord is supernatural, not circumstantial! Your joy is based on Jesus! If Jesus gave it to you, the world can't take it away.

B. Paul wrote the greatest sermon on joy while he was in prison for preaching about Jesus.
   1. He preached while he was quarantined for being contagious with Jesus!
   2. Faith is contagious, and its symptoms are contagious: healing, joy, and generosity.

II. BE A TEAM PLAYER: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, [2] fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. [3] Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better

than himself. [4] Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

A. There is an anointing of joy on unity (verse 2).
   1. Be like-minded and have the same love of Jesus.
      Psalm 133 When you dwell in unity--- there will be a commanded blessing!!! I want to be a part of that commanded blessing. I am not going to step out of that! I am going to be where God called me to be and strive for unity.

B. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory (v. 3).
   1. Strife is not God's will.
   2. In the KJV, verse 3 uses the word "vainglory," which is the Greek word *kenodoxia*, meaning glory that is for yourself. It's vain! Your glory is not what it is all about. The Doxology is a hymn of praise to God—not to you!

C. Keep looking out for others (v. 4).
   1. Winston Churchill said, "You make a living out of what you get. You make a life out of what you give."

III. LOOK TO JESUS: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, [6] who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, [7] but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. [9] Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, [10] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, [11] and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A. Identify with Jesus (v. 5).
   1. When you identify with Jesus, you will think, walk, talk, and live like Him!

B. Jesus is highly exalted and has a name greater than every name (vv. 9–11).
   1. The name of Jesus is greater than the names of recession/lack, fear, depression, anxiety, and sickness.
   2. The promises of God are greater than the circumstances of the world.

3. You might be going through the desert, but God's Word is still true! His promises will come to pass! Keep moving forward, looking to Jesus, and speaking His name above all else!
   Joshua 21:45 *Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.*

IV. LIVE WITH PURPOSE: PHILIPPIANS 2:12-17

A. Salvation is past, present, and future (v. 12).
   1. Past tense: SPIRIT – the moment you believed on Jesus, you were given the same spirit that Jesus has!
      Romans 8:11 *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

   2. Present tense: SOUL – your mind is to be continually renewed.
      Romans 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

   3. Future tense: BODY – your body will be saved.
      1 Corinthians 15:42–43 *So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. [43]It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory.*

B. God is working in you and through you (v. 13).
   1. Everything you do, do it for Him!
   2. Work hard and keep a good attitude! This is the best advice for any employee in any job.
   3. Don't work for yourself. It's not about you. Work for the boss, work for the Lord.
      Colossians 3:23 *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.*

C. Keep a good attitude (v. 14).
   1. Don't complain and dispute everything.

D. Stand out from the world (v. 15).
   1. You are an ambassador for Jesus and a citizen of heaven.

2. Shine as lights in the world!!!

E. When you live with purpose, it's easy to rejoice (v. 18).
   1. There's a reason for you to be here and to get up in the morning! Today is the day to rejoice!!!

V. WHEN YOU ARE LIVING FOR A PURPOSE GREATER THAN YOURSELF, GOD WILL SEND PEOPLE TO HELP YOU: PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

Isaiah 43:4 *Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, and I have loved you; therefore I will give men for you, and people for your life.*

A. God gave Paul people like Timothy and Epaphroditus.
   1. Timothy was a like-minded, sincere person, cared for others, not self-seeking, a proven character, like a son to Paul, and had the heart of a servant.
   2. Epaphroditus was a true brother, fellow hard worker, fellow soldier who was bold and willing to lay down His life for Jesus, ministered to Paul, took care of Paul's needs, cared deeply about others, and lit up a room with joy!

B. Living for a purpose greater than yourself happens when you receive Jesus' forgiveness of sins.
   1. Take time to share the plan of salvation with the group and pray with anyone who desires to accept Jesus as their Savior.

Bottom Line:
Paul gives a few tips on fulfilling the supernatural joy that God gave you: be a team player, look to Jesus, live with purpose, and remember that God will give men to you! You are not alone!

Small Group Time:

1. Philippians 2 shows the importance of unity. Fear will cause you to isolate yourself, but faith will cause you to want to help others! Spend time with other Christ followers who have the same common purpose! It helps you get along! When you stay busy working together for Christ, you won't fall into the trap of being harsh, judgmental, or critical. Keep giving grace to people and stay humble!

- On a scale of 1 (low) – 10 (high), how would you rate the unity you have with other believers?
- What might help you have more unity?
- What suggestions do you have for this youth group to have more unity?

2. You are part of "team Jesus," where you should shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15). You are a small piece of the big picture—eternity. Paul saw that his life would end, but he wanted his ministry to continue through the Philippian Christians. The faith of the Gospel is not just a faith for yourself, but a faith to impact the entire world! There is a world out there that needs saved!

- What goals do you have that extend beyond yourself?
- What are you creating or planning that would continue on after your life?

Declaration:
"I choose to bring unity and look out for the interests of others because I am on God's team."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** How are you going to be a good team player this week?
- **Pray:** Ask God to use you to help foster unity at home, school, and at church.
- **Read:** Read Philippians 2 each day and write down new revelations the Holy Spirit shows you.
- **Live It:** Paul reminded the Philippians to achieve unity through humility and showing grace to others. Think of a situation that needs more unity and foster it through thinking of others and reaching out in kindness.
- **Create:** Continue making a collage of key words, verses, thoughts, or examples of living out Philippians 2. Make a habit of thinking about and applying God's Word to your life.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What is the most unusual food you have eaten?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Read Philippians 2:9–11 and play the song "I Know a Name." Spend time talking about some of the important names throughout history, but conclude that Jesus' name is the most talked about and life-changing name.

Opening Affirmation: "I choose to be thankful and bold as I live rejoicing at all times in unity with other believers."

Giving Time: Hebrews 10:11–14 *And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. [12] But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, [13] from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. [14] For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

We have a better covenant with a better sacrifice. We don't have to bring animals to church and offer them as a sacrifice. Jesus was the sacrifice for sin, forever! We are being sanctified and perfected forever because of the blood of Jesus shed for us. We don't give our money to get something from God or pay for our sins; we give because God takes care of us, and Jesus gave all for us!

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Have everyone write down a goal for this week to live beyond themselves in one area of their lives. Throughout the week, when they accomplish their goal, have them make a quick video or social media post to document it. If your youth group has a group chat, have them post it to encourage others to meet their goals, too.

Biblical Worldview: A secular worldview focuses on living for yourself. This doesn't recognize that people are created by God with a purpose and plan to know God and help others know Him. Philippians 2:10–11 reminds us that everyone will ultimately bow and worship God, whether or not they acknowledge His existence in this life. Encourage young people to set a goal of sharing the Gospel and shining the light of Jesus with their family and friends.

Outreach/Missions: Philippians 2:10–11 talks about the power of the name of Jesus and how, one day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess He is Lord.

Have the young people gather in small groups or pairs and pray for people at their school, after-school activities, and in their neighborhoods, that the name of Jesus would impact their lives by accepting His forgiveness of their sins.