

## Conversation Starters

- Have you had any disagreements with anyone lately?
- How do you tend to respond during conflict?

## Discuss

**One of the most powerful if/then statements in the Bible fundamentally tells us that if we have any relationship with Jesus, then there should be some aspect of the Christ life evident in our life.**

*“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then...”* ([Philippians 2:1, NIV](#))

- What “taste(s)” of Jesus have you had in your life?
- How has it affected your life?

**While a relationship with Christ will affect us in many ways, of utmost importance to Jesus was having relational unity. Unity mattered to Jesus so much that He spent His final hours on Earth praying for the unity of His future followers - the church. It mattered, not only because it reflects the nature of God, but because it would grab the world’s attention and confirm that He was who He said He was.**

*“... then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”* ([Philippians 2:2, NIV](#))

*“I’m praying not only for them but also for those who will believe in me because of them and their witness about me. The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind.... Then the world might believe... [giving] the godless world evidence that you’ve sent me and loved them in the same way you’ve loved me.”* ([John 17:20-23, Msg](#))

- Have you given unity the same level of attention that Jesus did?
- What does it look like to love someone the way Jesus did?
- If the world saw the way you lived, would it grab their attention the way Jesus wanted?

**What drives loving unity is personal humility. It’s the opposite of pride. Jesus was the perfect example to us of how to live a humble life.**

*“... but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* ([Philippians 2:3-4, NLT](#))

*“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!”*  
[\(Philippians 2:5-8, NIV\)](#)

- Has pride crept into any area of your life?
- What examples of humility can we learn from Jesus?
- What steps can you take to model unity within the church?

## Next Steps

**Unity doesn't mean uniformity or unanimity. We're going to have differences and disagreements with other people. But we can still choose to be loving in our spirit, loving in our attitude and fiercely loyal to each other. If we're going to survive a season like we're in, we need to get this right. If you've had a disagreement lately and didn't handle it well, consider how you can reconcile.**

Sept 30: [TeamLifeOnline](#)

Oct 8: [Virtual GroupLink](#)

## Further Reflection

Read [Philippians 2:1-11](#); [John 17:20-23](#).

## Pray

God, thank you for the perfect example of Jesus. Forgive us because we don't always get this right. Point out any areas of pride in our life, and help us to live humble lives like Jesus did before a watching world.