



Leader Guide — Weekly Gathering

Matthew 27; Philippians 2:5-18 • April 8, 2007 • by Kathy Schlittenhart

Opening (5 minutes)

Take time as leaders to welcome people and set a tone of joy and openness in community.

Check-in Time (15 minutes)

Questions:

- Did you do something special for Lent. How did that go?
- What special memory do you have of Easter?
- Name one or two things that are most meaningful to you about Easter.

Centering Worship (10 minutes)

- Light the candle
- Music: choose an Easter song to play
- Pray

Sharing (15 minutes)

Questions you might use during this time:

- Where have you experienced God this week?
- What stood out to you as you used the exercises this week?
- What exercise or section of Scripture caught your attention and why?
- Ask group members to look back over their journals and share some things that catch their attention.
- Ask group members to look back at the last worship gathering on Sunday. Where did they experience God?
- What did you notice (sense, feel, think, learn) this week as we gathered for worship?
- How did God show up in your life this week?
- How have you been intentional in creating space to listen to Christ this week?
- How have you noticed Christ calling you to "live out love" this week?

Group Listening Practice (40 minutes)

Read Philippians 2:5-18. This passage talks about the heart attitudes of Jesus and also what our attitudes should be. "As you listen the first time, note the attitudes of Jesus." Read the passage again. This time notice what it says about our attitudes.

Discussion: Our focus this week has been on how the cross revealed the heart of Jesus.

- We can know some of what is in a person's heart by his or her attitudes, words, and actions.
- Name the things you see in Philippians 2 that express the attitudes of Jesus.
- What did it look like for Jesus to work out these attitudes in his life and ministry? (i.e. his humility was evident by his humble birth and life as a poor rabbi, without home or family)
- What was his reward for being obedient to the Father's will?

Now let's focus on what this passage says about our attitudes.

- Name the things you see that express what our attitudes should be.
- Discuss what it means to "work out your salvation." (It doesn't mean to work *for* your salvation; it means making your salvation operational or conscientiously demonstrated. There are obligations and responsibilities to being a believer. After salvation we begin the process of

sanctification, which in part is learning to live a holy life in the power of the Spirit. That involves “working out” our faith.)

- What would it look like for us to “work out” these attitudes? Be specific (i.e. as we use our spiritual gifts, do things for others with love and joy, not out of obligation; be willing to sacrifice for others, go on mission trips, etc).

Close this listening time by taking a couple of minutes to quietly meditate on the spiritual attitudes we have talked about in the passages we read.

- What attitudes do you feel comfortable with?
- What attitudes are you more challenged with?

Talk with the Lord about your thoughts and feelings.

Pick one thing to “work out” in your life and ask the Lord to help you in this area.

Closing (5 minutes)

Close in prayer. Remind everyone to pray for each other this coming week.