

GETTING STARTED

SURPRISE! Answer these questions (with a twist) to find out who likes surprises and who doesn't.

Question 1:	YES	NO
In general, are you someone who likes to be surprised?		

Question 2:	YES	NO
Has anyone ever thrown you a surprise party?		

Question 3:	YES	NO
Have you ever been mad at someone because they surprised you?		

Question 4:	YES	NO
Have you ever accidentally ruined a surprise for someone else?		

Question 5:	YES	NO
Have you ever gotten really embarrassed when someone surprised you?		

SESSION 2 DIGGING IN

Read through the following passages and answer the questions with your group.

Philippians 2:5-7

[5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

What do you see in this passage that is unexpected?

He came as a servant, not a King looking to be served. He humbled Himself, even though He is God.

- What do you think it means that Jesus “did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped”?
- When you read the phrase “emptied himself,” how does that make you feel that Jesus did that for you?
- Jesus could have taken on any “form.” Why is it surprising that He took on the form of a servant?

Space will not allow for answers to be listed here. Refer to your Leader Guide.

Philippians 2:8

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

What do you see in this passage that is unexpected?

Jesus, God Himself, humbled Himself even unto death on the cross for the payment of the sins of humankind.

- What do you think it means that Jesus “did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped”?
- When you read the phrase “emptied himself,” how does that make you feel that Jesus did that for you?
- Jesus could have taken on any “form.” Why is it surprising that He took on the form of a servant?

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Philippians 2:9

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

- What does “therefore” refer to?
- Jesus went from being the servant to being what?
- But before He was exalted above everyone, what did Jesus’ obedient death and resurrection make possible for us?

Space will not allow for answers to be listed here. Refer to your Leader Guide.

Philippians 2:10-11

[10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- What is the proper response to people when they see Jesus in His rightful place?
- There were people around Jesus when He was living on this earth who never saw Him for who he truly was. They only saw the humble carpenter's son. What do you think their response was when they read words as Paul wrote here?

Space will not allow for answers to be listed here. Refer to your Leader Guide.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- What do you see in this verse that is unexpected?

This is the heart of the Gospel, isn't it? That Jesus, perfect Jesus, would take on the sins of humankind to save sinful humans from the rightful penalty their sin earns.

Ephesians 2:4-5

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved."

- What do you see in these verses that is unexpected?

Lead students to see that the most unexpected thing about these verses is that we see the motivation for God's rescue plan. It isn't that we offer anything to God. We certainly aren't worthy of saving. It's simply that God loves us. God's love motivates His great desire to rescue us from our sins. This is a powerful truth that we must process because it changes everything about who we are.

SESSION 2

Wrapping Up

What is your response? Work through the activity below to consider where you stand with Jesus.

Philippians 2:9-11

[9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

How have you
responded
to Jesus
?

I have never responded to Jesus, but I'm open to it.

Responses to each of these questions will vary by student.

I am ready to respond in faith to Jesus for the first time.

I need to re-focus on how I respond to Jesus.

I'm not perfect, but I'm intentional about my response to Jesus.