

# Heaven Come to Earth

Philippians 2:1-11

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- We should seek unity in the church because of Jesus
- We show our Christlikeness by how we consider others
- We worship Jesus because of His perfect example



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# Further Up, Further In

1. How do stories like “Horton Hears a Who” or hearing about the magnitude of the universe and “inner space” help you understand the idea of perspective? Do we see God as huge and detached or small and intimate? Why or why not?
2. Read Philippians 2:1-3. How does the example of Christ help us understand what unity looks like in the church? Describe the Trinitarian elements to verse 1. What does “being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind” mean? (Luke 2:25, 2 Cor. 13:14. Rom. 5:1-5)
3. Read Col. 3: 12-17. Is that the church you would like to be a part of? Does THCF resemble this? Why or why not?
4. Read Philippians 2:3-4. Do you think Paul meant it was bad to look out for your own interests? How do we balance our own interests with the interests of others? Do you count others as more important than yourself? What practical things do you think of in the church that prevent us from doing this? Does the modern church have too much of a “consumer” mentality? Should we look at what our church is doing for us or consider how we can serve others, the church and ultimately Christ? Pause and pray for humility and confess where you have fallen short in this area. Encourage one another to respond humbly in obedience.
5. Read Phil. 2:5-11. This has been called the Hymn of Christ, Read this together out loud as a confession of Christ. What does “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus” mean? How do we achieve “like-mindedness”? Who do we call upon to help with this? (Hint: Phil. 1:1)
6. Think about this Christmas Season and the gift from God of Jesus Christ. What does it mean when he “emptied himself”? Jesus was fully God and fully man, discuss what heresies in history have distorted this truth. How does this help you understand the greatness of God and how he humbled himself in the form a servant? Read John 3:13-21; is there any fresh perspective you have from this passage? What renewed perspective can you reflect on with regard to the Father sending His Son this Christmas Season?

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!” — C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*