

## Scripture and Background Information for August 18-24

### *How to Fight Without Losing*

To prepare for discussion each week, group members should use the **Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD’S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page. You will notice that we are continuing the pattern of your discussing scripture *after* the Sunday message on that passage.

#### **Background for Philippians 2:5-11**

Relationships are hard. Whether with a roommate, a spouse, a parent, a child, a friend, or someone you barely know, conflict is inevitable if you stick around long enough – even among godly people. The difference between Christ-followers and the world isn’t found in the absence of conflict, but in how we do it. During this series, we’ll look at four strategies for engaging conflict with each other when we’re trying to love Jesus without killing each other in the process.

Philippians is the epistle of joy and encouragement in the midst of adverse circumstances. In it, Paul freely expresses his fond affection for the Philippians. He lovingly urges them to center their actions and thoughts on the person, pursuit, and power of Jesus Christ. Paul also seeks to correct a problem with disunity and rivalry, urging his readers to imitate Christ in His humility and servanthood. His hope is that the work of the Gospel will go forward as believers seek to stand fast, be of the same mind, rejoice always, and pray about everything.

Philippians 2:5-11 reminds us of the humility of Christ. Christ is the ultimate example of servanthood when He left heaven to become a servant on our behalf. This passage makes it clear that even though He had every reason, right, and justification to guarantee His win, He gave it all up to win us. His humility reminds us that in service or conflict God gives the glory, and we are simply called to serve.

\*Verse 7 “he made himself nothing” or “he emptied himself”—though Jesus was fully God and fully man, he willfully chose to give up his own self-interests for the glory of God even to the point of death on a cross. Being made nothing or emptying himself as he put on humanity, refers to him giving up his interests rather than his divinity.

#### **Scriptures for the upcoming weeks:**

August 25

Luke 6:32-37

September 1

TBD