

PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In
The Lord!

The Real Jesus

Lesson Fifteen

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

Lesson Fifteen

Page 2 of 4

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to understand who Jesus really is.

Scriptures: Philippians 2:6

For Memory: “Who being in very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped...” Philippians 2:6

The Real Jesus

Today we are beginning a series of studies from chapter two about who Jesus really is. We will look at this section of Philippians in very small segments so that we can understand all that we should know. Verses six through eleven record a song. We don't know if Paul wrote the song, or if it was already being sung in the churches. If so, Paul just added it to his letter, maybe changing a few words, because it fits his purpose right here.

We do know is that it is one of the most beautiful and meaningful statements ever made about Jesus.* The statement is introduced by Paul's encouragement to the Philippians, in verse five, to think like Jesus. Now, in these verses, he is going to tell them just how Jesus thinks.

The first thing he says is that Jesus is exactly like God. He uses the word “nature” to described that. He means that in every way, Jesus is like God. There is no difference. God is divine, which means that He is perfect in every way. Jesus, then, is divine, perfect in every way.

You have heard the expression “flesh and blood.” That usually refers to someone actually being human and being real. It also refers to someone being from the same family. Like: “She was his own flesh and blood.” Meaning: she was his sister, or daughter or mother. Now if you were to create that saying these days, you might say, “They have the same DNA.” Having very similar DNA means that you are very much alike physically and even mentally. Even when two people don't look alike, they can share the same DNA.

As Paul uses the word nature here, he refers to the kind of things that cannot be taken away from a person. Your sight, your hearing, and other things can be taken away, but some things cannot. There are unchangeable characteristics that cannot be taken away... DNA is one of those things. Jesus is unchangeably God.

Now, since they are spiritual beings, without the physical limitations humans have, we know that God and Jesus don't have human DNA. However, if you look at it like humans look at it, Jesus and God would have exactly the same DNA. Humans, even twins, have some differences in their DNA. However, God, Jesus, and God's Holy Spirit, if they had it, would have the same DNA.

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

So, the first thing that we can say about Jesus, as Paul was describing Him: Jesus has been, is and will always be, not only like God, He is God. He acts and thinks like God. His behavior was, and is, exactly the same as God's behavior.

The second thing Paul says is that Jesus didn't hold on to (grasp) His being equal with God. Now this can easily be misunderstood. One could read this to say that at some time Jesus gave up being God. But, we just said that Jesus was, and is, forever, without change, God. So what is Paul trying to tell us? Very simply, that Jesus laid down His right, that is equality with God, to become someone different.

Instead of taking advantage of His divinity (equality with God), He willingly volunteered to come to earth with human limitations. He came to be born of a virgin, live a perfect life, die for all people so that their sins could be forgiven, and rise from the dead to insure that humans could overcome death and have eternal life with God.

Now, exactly what that means leads us to the next lesson, where we will see Jesus, who will always be God, becoming a servant ready to die.

*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.



Teaching Tips:

1. This lesson has some of the most powerful words about Jesus in the Bible . It should help us see the absolute wonder of Jesus and His life as a human.
2. Songs that emphasize Jesus as God, humility, Jesus coming to earth, and how we are to be like Jesus would be appropriate.
3. Pray with your students, asking God to teach us about the great love of God that caused Jesus to come to earth and be our Savior.
4. Thank God for Jesus and His willingness to come to earth and be our example..
5. Some related scriptures are: II Corinthians 8:9; Ephesians 5:1, 2; Mark 10:44, 45; John 13:1-8. It might be interesting to contrast what Isaiah said about Satan, 14:13, 14, and today's text. Satan wanted to go up, Jesus volunteered to come down.
6. A study of the Greek word *morphe* will give additional insight into what it meant for Jesus to be "in very nature God."

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

Student Worksheet

Lesson Fifteen

Page 4 of 4

For Memory: “Who being in very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped...” Philippians 2:6

The Real Jesus

=Philippians 2:5-11 is one of the most _____ and meaningful statements ever made about _____.

=In these verses, Paul is going to tell them just how Jesus _____.

=God is divine, which means that He is _____ in every way. _____, then, is _____, perfect in every way.

=As Paul uses the word _____ here, he refers to the kind of things that _____ be taken _____ from a person.

=If you look at it like humans look at it, _____ and _____ would have the same DNA.

=Jesus has been, is and will always be, not only like _____, He is God. He _____ and thinks like God. His behavior was, and is, exactly the _____ as God’s behavior.

=Instead of taking advantage of His divinity (equality with God), _____ willingly, volunteered to come to earth with limitations. He came to be born of a virgin, live a _____ life, die for all people so that their _____ could be forgiven and rise from the dead to insure that humans could overcome _____ and have eternal _____ with God.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be determined to live for him all the rest of your life.