Philippians 2:1–18 Life Group Discussion Questions

When you hear the words "don't be selfish, don't try to impress others," what situation in your life comes to mind first?

In verses 1–2 Paul gives four reasons we can love each other well: encouragement from belonging to Christ, comfort from His love, fellowship with the Spirit, and tender, compassionate hearts. Which of those four do you most need to receive right now? Which one do you most need to give?

"Thinking of others as better than yourselves" makes most of us squirm. The sermon made the point that Paul is not saying other people are more valuable as human beings — we're all equally loved by God. He's saying we should care more for others needs than to our own preferences.
What does that look like in our lives?

Lewis said humility isn't thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less. The sermon used a surgeon as the picture — a surgeon who says "I'm terrible with a scalpel" isn't humble, they're dangerous.
What's the difference in your own life between false humility and thinking of yourself less? Can you name a time you confused the two?

Walk through the steps Paul describes: Jesus was God, He didn't cling to His equality with God, He gave up His divine privileges, He took the position of a slave, He was born human, He humbled Himself, He died, and not just died, but died a criminal's death on a cross.
Which of those steps hits you hardest and why?

The sermon said every step downward by Jesus was a choice, not forced. Where in your life right now are you serving or sacrificing because you feel you have to, rather than because you choose to?

The sermon used the image of a leader throwing himself on a grenade to save everyone in the room, and then said even that isn't close to what Jesus did, because He stepped down from heaven.
Why do you think we often don’t take what Jesus did seriously enough? How could we change that?

God elevated Jesus to the highest place, and every knee will bow. But that's not why we humble ourselves — God knows our motives, and 1 Samuel 16:7 tells us He looks at the heart, not the outward appearance.
How much of your serving is quietly waiting for someone to notice? Would you still serve the way you do if no one ever noticed or thanked you?

Verse 14, do everything without complaining and arguing, has convicted every parent, every employee, and every person stuck in traffic. And verse 15 says we shine like bright lights in a crooked world.
What would it look like for your home, your job, or at church to be noticeably different this week because you cut the complaining? Name one specific thing you complain about that you could work on this week?.