PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

1

Paul says in this passage "make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." He is talking about the need for the Church to show 'unity'.

Draw an example of what 'unity' means for you (it doesn't need to be about the Church, it can be from sport, music, etc.)







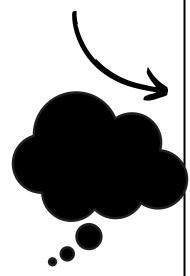
2

Read Philippians 2:1-11 and write down anything that stood out (don't forget our usual tools for Bible studies - what surprises you, key verses, etc.)

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

3

Some thoughts...



I wonder what you drew in the first box? For some, they might have drawn a sports team - each person's individual strengths being used to help the whole team, being driven by the goal of winning. For others, they might have thought of music - an orchestra or band playing a piece of music, with each individual part being important to the song as a whole.

With both those examples, the team or the song only works if each person or instrument is working together. Otherwise, it simply will be a mess... It doesn't mean that each person is doing the same thing at the same time, or playing the same note, or doing the same job on the sports pitch, but what matters is that they work together in 'unity'. Only in unity can the music/team work.

Paul says in a lot of his letters that it's the same with the Church. We don't all need to look the same, do the same thing on a Sunday morning or read the same books. But he does say that it's important that the church remains in unity. He says "make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." And he says that the church is united primarily by one thing - Jesus Christ. We are united to other Christians by our love for Jesus and our desire to share this love with those around us. We can do this by following Paul's instructions to "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."



4

How can you make sure that the main focus of your life is Jesus?

How can you look to the interests of others more than your own today?