

PHILIPPIANS

Finding Joy in Every Season



FOR DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever played on a sport's team? Do you like being on a team? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever let somebody go first at something even when you really wanted to? If you've never done this, consider trying it today. Even though it can be difficult, God is pleased when we think about others before ourselves!

DIG DEEPER

Read & Reflect on Philippians 1:27

1. In other words, Paul is saying, "if you are a Christian, you will live to show that Jesus is your Lord and King!" What commands from Scripture do you know that the Lord gives specifically to children? See Ephesians 6:1-3 & Colossians 3:20. What pleases the Lord?
2. Paul says he wants them to live godly lives whether he is with them or away from them. To be a person of integrity is to obey even when nobody is watching. The truth is that *God* is always watching. Do you want to do the right thing even when your parents are not around?
3. Read the International Children's Bible version below. Notice the imagery of working as a team toward a goal. Underline the words, phrases, or verses that stand out to you.

27 Be sure that you live in a way that brings honor to the Good News of Christ. Then whether I come and visit you or am away from you, I will hear good things about you. I will hear that you continue strong with one purpose and that you work together as a team for the faith of the Good News. 28 And you will not be afraid of those who are against you. All of these things are proof from God that you will be saved and that your enemies will be lost. 29 God gave you the honor both of believing in Christ and suffering for Christ. Both these things bring glory to Christ. 30 When I was with you, you saw the struggles I had. And you hear about the struggles I am having now. You yourselves are having the same kind of struggles.

4. Verse 27b says to "work together as a team" for what goal?
"Work together as a team for the _____ of the _____."
5. Verse 28 says that you are not to be afraid of your opponents (those on the opposite team). If you are living for God are you on the winning team?

Read & reflect on Philippians 2:1-2

6. Verse 1 in the ICB says “Does your life in Christ give you strength? Does his love comfort you? Do we share together in the Spirit? Do you have mercy and kindness?”

For the true believer, Christ does strengthen, encourage and comfort them.

Whatever you go through in your life, you can know that Jesus is with you.

He desires to strengthen *you*, encourage *you* and comfort *you*.

He is always with you. See Matthew 28:20

If you are strengthened, encouraged, & comforted by Christ, it will impact your relationship with others. Your relationship with God will ALWAYS impact how you treat others! In verse 2 Paul says “make me very happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and having one mind and purpose [with other Christians].”

What should a Christian love more than anything else? *God first, others second. See Mark 12:30-31 if needed.

What is the mission that Christians should be focused on together? See Matthew 28:18-20

Read & reflect on Philippians 2:3-4

7. Is it easy to consider others more significant than yourself? Is it easy to let your siblings or friends go before you or play the game they want to play?

When you let others go first and consider what they want before yourself, you are showing the character of Christ. You are showing *humility*. Humility is not showing off. It is *lowering* yourself, lifting others up, and not thinking of yourself as better than others.

Read the statements below. Discuss with your parents. Which ones shows pride? Which ones show humility?

“I deserve to have everything my way. I deserve to play with that toy, not them.”

“I never do anything wrong. I don’t need to apologize. It is their fault.”

“I am sorry. I sinned against you. Will you please forgive me?”

“I’m better than you.”

“I still have a lot to learn.”

“I’m the best”

“I know everything.”

PRAYER POINT

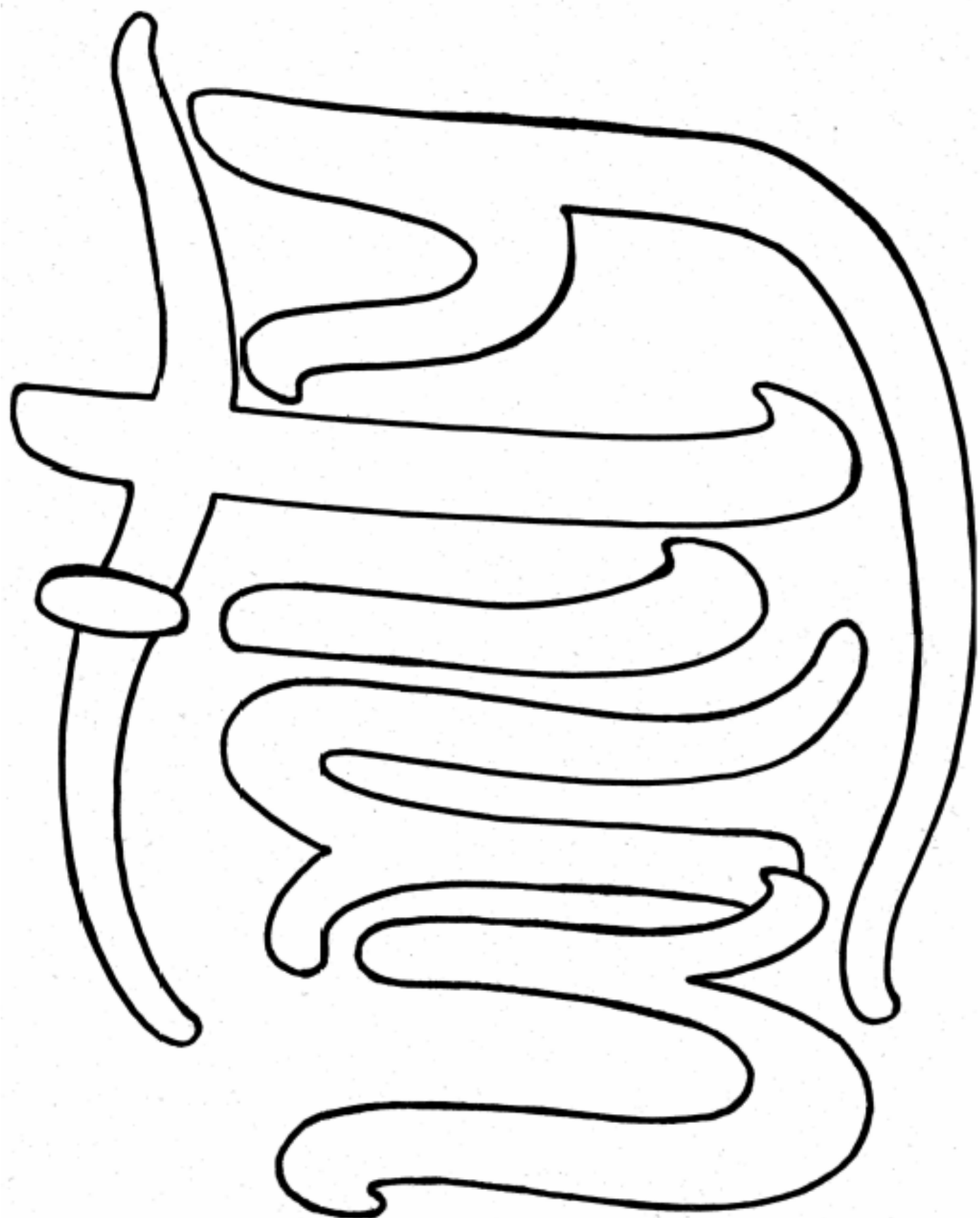
- Pray that you would honor and obey Jesus as your King.
- Ask that God would help you to do the right thing even when nobody is watching.
- Thank God for sending His Son to die for us and to rise from the grave for us. Thank Him for His Holy Spirit that helps us grow to be humble and loving.

What is going on in each boy's heart? Read James 4:1-2 in your Bible. What causes this fighting? What would it look like for each boy to consider the other's interests before their own?



What is going on in the hearts of the children? How does each picture represent an attitude of heart that God is pleased with?





Let each of you

his own interests,

the

interests

look not only to

but also to

of others.

Philippians 2:4

