The Heart of Jesus
Philippians 2:5-8

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

If you want to ________ someone, look into his heart. We search God’s Word for the Lord’s Way. The Bible ________ that way for us so that we can know the Lord. We don’t rely on opinions, or polls, or hunches. We know the Bible teaches the truth, so we ________ on God’s Holy Word.

Jesus ________ people. God sent Him into this world because the world ________ Him so very badly. Jesus ________ about people and fed the hungry, healed the sick. He invited people to cast their cares upon Him. But, more than anything, He cared about their _________. He preached repentance, because He wanted everyone to be ________ with God.

The Bible ________ the heart of Jesus. It says, “Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of harvest to send out workers into His harvest’” (Matthew 9:36-38). Jesus ________ what we needed, and that we needed His protection and guidance.

Galatians 1:4 says Jesus “gave Himself for our sins so that He might ________ us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.” Jesus lovingly died for us so that we might be _________. No one loves you ________ than Jesus.

Our reading today comes from Paul’s letter to the Philippians 2:5-8.

Jesus has ________ existed in the form of God. He is indeed Divine. Some think of Jesus as a man and ________ His Deity. Some think of Him as a great ________ and only the son of Mary. Still others think that He was a great, moral _________. The Scriptures, however, present Jesus as truly Divine. They argue that He’s always existed.

John 1:1-3 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. And all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.” In this passage “the Word” is a reference to Jesus Christ. He was in the beginning; He was with God; He was and is God; and ________ took place through Him. John 1:15 says, “John bore witness about Jesus, and cried out, ‘This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.’”

In His prayer to His Father, Jesus ________ of His existence before creation. He said, “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you ________ the world existed” (John 17:5). Later, in verse 24, Jesus prayed, “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My ________ that you have given Me because you loved Me before the foundation of the world.” The Lord Jesus has always existed.

Jesus was truly God before He became a ________ person. Then, without ceasing to be God, he was willing to lay aside the glory of being ________ with God. He emptied Himself of divine
privileges by becoming human. Philippians says that Jesus Christ was made in the ________ of men and found in appearance as a man. He became something ________ than what He was before. He left His place in Heaven and took on ________.

John 1:14 says, “And the Word became ________ and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only (begotten) Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jesus Christ was quite unique. John saw His glory, but that glory didn’t come during His ________ ministry. It didn’t come until He ________ on the cross and was ________ from the dead. Jesus was God, yet became flesh. One might ask why.

Hebrews 2:14-15 answers that question. “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might ________ the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.” The devil possesses the power of ________ in that he tempts people to sin and to come under sin’s penalty, which is spiritual death.

Jesus took on flesh so that through dying He could take ________ of death. He shed his blood on the cross to set men ________ from sin and from the consequences of sin. He conquered death when He ________ from the dead. The Christian, then, who faithfully follows the Lord, does not have to ________ death or the judgment. He knows there is the ________ of heaven awaiting him.

By leaving heaven and coming to earth, the Lord Jesus ________ Himself, taking the form of a servant, literally a slave. Jesus didn’t empty Himself of His Deity, but of His ________. His focus was not on being equal with God but of taking the form of God’s ________ or slave on earth. The Lord Jesus said, “the Son of Man didn’t come to be served, but to ________, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Jesus was and is the Lord of Glory, but He walked upon this earth like a common man.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in the place where the animals stayed, “because there was no ________ for them in the inn.” He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a _________. He worked most of his life in Nazareth in a carpenter’s ________. While Joseph and Mary knew of his miraculous birth, his neighbors in Nazareth took offense at His ________ to be the Messiah and sought to kill Him. To them, Jesus was ________ the carpenter’s son.

Jesus never did any of the worldly things that people associate with earthly greatness. He never led an ________, never ruled an earthly ________, never owned any land or built a great ________, never possessed great wealth, never wrote a ________, and never traveled far and wide. He never ________ or raised a family. He didn’t come to glorify Himself; He came to glorify the Father and to do His ________.

The Lord Jesus left everything holy and good to come and ________ sinful mankind from this present evil age. Second Corinthians 8:9 says, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was ________, yet for your sake He became ________, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Paul used the example of Jesus’ servant attitude to speak to the _________. The Bible says, “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let
each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4). Jesus never taught anyone to think of himself as ________ than others, or to be selfish, or to be conceited. Paul once asked, “What do you have that you did not ________?” (1 Corinthians 4:7). Everything we have, everything we are, everything we hope to be comes by God’s providence. When we consider the grace and the providence of God, we have no ________ to be arrogant.

The Lord Jesus practiced and taught __________. Jesus taught his disciples, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and ________ of all” (Mark 9:35). He was saying, “You don’t become great by putting yourself before everyone else. You become great by putting yourself ________, by serving other people.” God doesn’t want arrogant people; He wants people who greatly humble themselves. Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient. Servants and slaves ________.

A humble person has no arrogance and realizes His dependence on God. Humble people aren’t concerned with prestige. Jesus was Divine, but He stooped ________ in humility for our sake. Hebrews 5:8-9 says, “Although he was a son, he ________ obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who ______ him.” The humble obedience of Jesus opened the _______ for your obedience and opportunity for eternal life.

The Lord described His humility in Matthew 11:28-29. “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in ________, and you will find rest for your souls.” Jesus Christ was approachable by the common Jew, even by those who felt weary and burdened. The downtrodden and the sinner could find a ________ in Jesus. They found ________ for their souls in Jesus. The Lord Jesus never sinned, but He was not afraid to stoop down and lift up the fallen, broken people.

Read what Hebrews 4:14-16 says.

Many people shy away from God when they sin, but we have a high priest who understands ___ our weaknesses and knows what it is to be tempted. Rather than shy away from God when we’re tempted, we should draw close and pray for ______. The Father understands and will help us through temptations and struggles. We can receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus was obedient, and He did it to the point of death on a ________, not an easy thing. Many have been crucified, but none compares to His: there He bore our sins, taking our ________ and enduring the wrath of God that we should have received. The death of Christ was nothing less than Christ experiencing ______________ for sin, so we would not have to bear it ourselves.

The Bible speaks of how personal this death was for Jesus. First Peter 2:24 says, “He himself bore _____ sins in his body on the tree, that we might ______ to sin and ______ to righteousness, for by his wounds you have been healed.” Jesus’ death was a deeply passionate and personal, personal sacrifice for our sins, so that we could _______ forgiveness and spiritual healing. Second Corinthians 5:21 says God made Jesus “who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might ________ the righteousness of God in Him.” Jesus was entirely selfless in dying on the cross, so we might be blessed.

Jesus didn’t merely die for us and ________ us. People ask what is Jesus doing ________. The Scriptures reveal that Jesus is still ________ us today. Jesus is interceding for God’s children.
Hebrews 7:25 says, “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw ________ to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” He’s pleading the case for your __________ before the Father who is in Heaven. The Bible says, “My little children, I’m writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an __________ with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. And He is the propitiation (atonning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:1-2).

The One who prayed for the forgiveness for those who nailed His hands and feet is also interceding with the Father today on your behalf, if you’re a __________ Christian. Jesus never stops loving us as long as we __________ to follow Him. He’s constantly taking up our __________ with the Father in Heaven. The One who died for us is now pleading for our __________ forgiveness. Even when Christians _______ the Lord, He’s willing to go to the Father on our behalf. When I consider the cross of Jesus and His constant loyal defense before the Father, I cannot fully grasp such great, great love.

My prayer is like Paul’s in Ephesians 3. Paul wanted the church to comprehend the love of God, which is to some extent __________ our ability to comprehend. He prayed that they “may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses __________, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:18-19).

Can you imagine the changes that you’d make if you really grasped how deep and wide the love of God is for you? We often take the love and the blessing of God for __________. We forget all He has done and all that He’s doing for us. We get so caught up in our own little world and our desires, that we lose _______ of the heart of Christ and His devotion to us. We desperately need the heart of Christ to be in our own hearts. It’ll make a difference. Do you have the heart of Christ?

Because Jesus humbled Himself, God has exalted Him. Read Philippians 2:9-11. God blesses those who humbly ________ Him.

We need hearts like the Lord’s heart. “Have this mind in yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). We too must humbly obey God and sacrifice ourselves out of _______. Instead of challenging the Lord with our beliefs and our opinions, we need to humbly step back and _______ what God has to say, and _______ the Lord. Love and grace do not __________ us from the need for repentance or the need for obedience. Love moves us to do whatever He asks and to live every single day in His ________.

Love for God moves us to trust Him; to __________ to the whole world that we believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. So, we gladly acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and we belong to Him. Love also moves us to think of _____ differently. We realize that sin will ruin our lives and so we _________ of sin and we turn to the Lord. Put on Christ in __________. Baptism is when we go into the death of Christ; we’re baptized into His death according to Romans 6:3. It’s where Christ shed His ________. In baptism God then washes away our sins and gives us newness of life (Acts 22:16; Romans 6:4-7). That’s why we need to take the necessary step of being baptized into Christ. That’s when you’ll receive the forgiveness of sins.