

Date | **September 18, 2022** Family Theme | **Thinking Like Christ**  
Study Text | **Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:3-8; Philippians 4:8-9**

**Objective:** Family members think more and more like Christ, adjusting their view of life to fit His.

**How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible:** Paul's teachings in Romans and Philippians were written in the late AD 50s and early AD 60s. In these passages Paul encouraged his readers to conform their thinking to that of Jesus.

**Bible Basics:** Review Ephesians 6:10-11 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

**Read the Word:** Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:3-8; Philippians 4:8-9

## Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we are to think like Christ, offering ourselves as living sacrifices to God, putting others ahead of ourselves, and focusing on what is good, right, and honorable.



### **Key Truth: Thinking Like Christ Means Daily Offering Ourselves to God as Living Sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2)**

Paul urged his readers to present themselves to God as living sacrifices. This is an act of worship that involves a total surrender to God's agenda. That surrender is a testimony to the world of God's worth to us (verse 1). Following Christ as He demands will put us at odds with the world because the culture will no longer be shaping us. The Spirit will transform us by renewing our minds and our character with Scripture, helping us discern what God expects of us (verse 2).



### **Key Truth: Thinking Like Christ Means Putting Others Ahead of Ourselves (Philippians 2:3-8)**

Jesus considered the needs of others as more important than His own comfort. Thinking like Christ means we set aside our selfish nature and consider others' needs and interests above our own (verses 3-5). Christ did not cling to His rights as God, but humbled Himself to become human and die to save us. We are most like Him when we are putting others ahead of our own interests (verses 6-8).



### **Key Truth: Thinking Like Christ Means Focusing on What Is Good, Right, and Honorable (Philippians 4:8-9)**

While important, it is not enough to just avoid putting bad information and images in our minds; we must also dwell and focus on things that are good and pure and honorable, especially God's Word (verse 8). After teaching the Philippian believers what they should think about, Paul instructed them to follow good examples and put godly principles into action so that the God of peace would be with them (verse 9).

# Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What does it mean for something to be transformed?
- **Why do our minds need to be renewed and transformed when we become followers of Christ?**
- **Why is it so important to guard what goes into your mind?**
- How do we begin to think like Christ instead of thinking like the lost world around us?
- Thinking like Christ means submitting to God's will and design for our lives. What does it look like for us to submit to God like that? How could we do that this week?
- Thinking like Christ means serving others. What does it look like to serve others? How could we do that this week?
- Thinking like Christ means choosing to saturate our minds with what is good and right and pure. How do we do that? How could we do that this week?
- **What thoughts does Philippians 4:8 tell us we should have?**

## Everyday Extras

Guess how one family member will answer questions. You can ask about one person's favorite song, restaurant, sports team, color, ice cream flavor, school subject, book title, and so on. Have everyone write down (or dictate) their guess about how that person is thinking before he or she tells the answer. See how many of your answers are correct. Because you know your family well, you can guess correctly most of the time. How can we think like Jesus thinks? How can we know Him well enough so that our minds think like His mind? We know Him by knowing His Word!

Sometimes our brains want to think about ideas that are not good. Those ideas make us worried or afraid. They make us want to do the wrong thing instead of the right thing. How can we substitute these ideas for the good thinking we should be doing instead? We examine our thinking and refuse to listen to lies from the Devil. We need good ideas to think about, so we fill our minds with what is true and pure and right and lovely (Philippians 4:8). We have some good thoughts ready to battle the bad ones. We can pray about everything, so we don't have to worry (Philippians 4:6-7). Some people make "worry stones" or "worry dolls," so they can help deal with difficult thoughts. Instead, make some prayer stones with your children as reminders to take our worries to Jesus. After all, He is always with us and always wants to help. Find smooth stones that will fit in your child's pocket and allow your children to decorate them with designs as a reminder to pray instead of worrying.

## Preschool Highlights for &

Today your child learned the island people were very kind to Paul and the other passengers. Paul was putting wood on a fire when a poisonous snake bit him. But God was with Paul, and he was unharmed. The people on the island thought Paul was a god, but Paul knew it was because God was with him. **God Is With Us All the Time** just like He was with Paul.