

## **“What’s going on?”**

+ Baptism Sunday is July 14th! If you or someone you know is interested in getting baptized, contact Chris Woodard at [cwoodard@lifepointqcy.org](mailto:cwoodard@lifepointqcy.org)

+ Our next Women’s Prayer and Praise Night will be July 15th from 6:30-8:00. Childcare and light refreshments will be provided. Can’t wait to see you there!

+ Camp Epic is here!! This LifePoint Kids 3-day event will be July 31st-August 2nd from 6-8PM for kids entering kindergarten through 6th grade! There will be exciting large group time with worship and teaching and then kids will participate in a different activity each night that they signed up for ahead of time. They will get the chance to sign up for arts, sports, science, and more! Be sure to invite a friend. We will have a family after party on August 2nd from 8-9pm. Cost for Camp Epic is \$10 for a t-shirt and supplies. If you would like to help with an activity (soccer, basketball, science, art, drums, dance, drama, etc.) or be a junior helper (kids entering 7th-12th grade) contact Rachel at [rplattner@lifepointqcy.org](mailto:rplattner@lifepointqcy.org)

## **SUBMISSION**

### **ICE BREAKER**

**Question:** Does anyone here like to be told what to do?

**Question:** How do you typically react when someone younger than you tells you what to do?

**Question:** Are there any instances where you don’t mind being told what to do?

### **CENTERING FOCUS**

Take five minutes of silence to quiet your hearts and minds before God. Give the stresses, worries, and fears to God to carry for you. Allow the distractions that flood your mind to simply pass through. Pray for an attentive and listening heart.

### **LAST WEEK’S CHALLENGE**

**Last week’s challenge was to slowly start implementing the discipline of study as a normal practice in your life. This will look different for everyone as all of our routines and rhythms are unique.**

**Question:** Did you practice this discipline this week? If so, how did it go? Was it hard? Was it rewarding? What did God show you?

## THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTION

**Question:** Why do you think humans don't typically like being bossed around?

**Question:** Is that same aversion to being told what to do apply when the Spirit of God or the Bible tell you what to do? What about when a pastor, leader, or even a friend corrects you?

## ENGAGING WITH SCRIPTURE

**John 6:38 (ESV):** [Jesus said,] "For I have come down from heaven, *not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.*"

**Question:** Have you ever had to represent or speak on behalf of someone who held a different opinion or position than you did? What was that like? Why might that be difficult?

**Question:** While Jesus and the Father are one, Jesus had a will that was distinct from the Father's. What do you think it was like for him to be about the Father's business rather than his own? What does that teach us about Jesus?

**Matthew 26:38-39 (ESV):** Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; *nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.*"

**Question:** The Father had a plan for Jesus that mean he would suffer and die for the sins of others, although he was completely sinless and perfect. How difficult must that have been for Jesus?

**Question:** What do you see displayed here in Jesus' character?

**Luke 2:51 (ESV):** And [Jesus] went down with [his parents] and came to Nazareth and **was submissive to them.**

**Question:** Here we see Jesus not only submit himself to God the Father, but also to his earthly parents. Keeping in mind that Jesus was divine and his parents were human, how difficult do you think that was for him?

**Luke 9:23 (ESV):** And [Jesus] said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and take up his cross daily **and follow me.**”

**Question:** What do you think Jesus means when he says we must *deny* ourselves? What could this practically look like in your life?

**Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV):** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant**, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, **he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death**, even death on a cross.

**Question:** We just read that Jesus calls us to deny ourselves and follow him, and here in Philippians Paul shows us a glimpse into what it looks like to follow him and have the same mindset of Jesus. If you are following Jesus and becoming more like him, what does it practically look like in your life to have the mind of Christ?

**2 Corinthians 9:12-13 (ESV):** For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God **because of your submission** that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ

**Ephesians 5:18-21 (ESV):** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

**Hebrews 13:17 (ESV):** Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

**Question:** The writers of Scripture take Jesus' example of submission and apply it not only to God, but also to the leaders and people in our Biblical community. What do you think it looks like to submit yourself to the leaders of our (church) community?

**Question:** What do you think it looks like to submit yourself to your peers in our community?

**Question:** What is scary about this teaching? What are the hesitations or fears that arise when it you think about submitting to others?

**Question:** Have you seen this teaching used in an abusive way? What are some ways this teaching could be twisted and misused?

*Of all the Spiritual Disciplines none has been more abused than the Discipline of submission. Somehow the human species has an extraordinary knack for taking the best teaching and turning it to the worst ends. Nothing can put people into bondage like religion, and nothing in religion has done more to manipulate and destroy people than a deficient teaching on submission. Therefore, we must work our way through this Discipline with great care and discernment in order to ensure that we are the ministers of life, not death.*

--Richard J. Foster. "Celebration of Discipline."

*I said that every Discipline has its corresponding freedom. What freedom corresponds to submission? It is the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way.*

--Richard J. Foster. "Celebration of Discipline."

**Question:** How can we help each other to embrace the beauty of this teaching practically in our daily lives?

## NEW CHALLENGE

Take 5-10 minutes everyday this week to meditate on Philippians 2:5-8

**Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV):** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ***but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant***, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, ***he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death***, even death on a cross.

Then ask the Spirit of God...

How can I reflect the attitude of submission that Jesus had today toward God?

How can I reflect the attitude of submission that Jesus had today toward my church community?