

# NOON DAY BIBLE STUDY



FEBRUARY 2026

## *The* Emotionally Healthy Church



Healthy  
People



Healthy  
Relationships



Healthy  
Ministry

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# *Working Together: Compromise and Collaboration in the Church Main*

**WEEK 3 – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 – 12:00 NOON**

## **Scripture Passages**

- Philippians 2:1–4
- Acts 15:1–21 (Jerusalem Council)

## **Lesson Focus**

An emotionally healthy church knows how to work through differences without tearing itself apart. Philippians 2 calls believers to humility and concern for others, while Acts 15 shows the early church navigating a serious conflict through prayerful discussion and Spirit-led compromise. This lesson emphasizes collaborative decision-making, shared sacrifice, and placing the mission above personal preference.

## **Key Words with Definitions**

- **Same Mind** – A shared attitude and focus, especially around Christ and His mission.
- **Selfish Ambition** – A self-focused drive that seeks to win, control, or be seen, rather than to serve.
- **Conceit (Vainglory)** – Empty pride; an inflated view of self that demands recognition.
- **Interests of Others** – Genuine concern for how decisions affect others, not only ourselves.
- **“It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us”** – A phrase expressing communal discernment, combining divine guidance with human consideration.

## **Lesson Background**

The church at Philippi faced internal tensions, including relational strain between key members. Paul urges them to live out their unity in Christ by rejecting selfish ambition and embracing humility. He calls them to “look not only to [their] own interests, but also to the interests of others,” modeling their mindset after Christ.

Acts 15 records a major church conflict over whether Gentile believers must follow Jewish ceremonial law, particularly circumcision. The matter is serious, emotional, and deeply rooted in identity and tradition. The apostles and elders gather, listen, discuss, and seek God’s will together. The final decision reflects both theological clarity and practical compromise, aimed at preserving unity and mission.

## Reading the Word

### Key exegetical words/phrases and explanation

1. **“Complete my joy by being of the same mind” (Philippians 2:2)**

Paul’s joy is tied to the church’s unity. “Same mind” is not identical opinions on everything, but a shared focus on Christ and His work.

2. **“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit” (2:3)**

The phrase is absolute—“do nothing.” Emotional health requires rooting out motives that center on winning, being first, or getting our way.

3. **“In humility count others more significant than yourselves” (2:3)**

Paul calls for a way of **counting**—a deliberate way of regarding others as weighty, important, and worthy of consideration.

4. **“Look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (2:4)**

Paul does not deny legitimate self-care, but forbids a self-only focus. Emotionally mature believers widen their circle of concern.

5. **“No small dissension and debate” (Acts 15:2)**

The dispute at Antioch was real and intense. Emotionally healthy churches do not pretend conflicts are small when they are not—but they handle them constructively.

6. **“After there had been much debate” (15:7)**

The process included honest discussion, not quick silencing. Collaboration involves hearing multiple voices before deciding.

7. **“It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” (15:28)**

The final decision is framed as a joint discernment—God leading a listening, humble community. It captures the balance of prayer, Scripture, and practical wisdom.

### Implications for Today

Churches face real disagreements—about methods, music, ministries, budgets, and more. An emotionally unhealthy church either avoids conflict (letting resentment grow) or escalates conflict (letting division spread). An emotionally healthy church **faces conflict with humility**, listening, Scripture, prayer, and a willingness to compromise where possible on non-essentials.

Collaboration means creating space for different perspectives—older and younger, long-time members and newer ones, different backgrounds and cultures. It requires dying to the need to win or control, and elevating Christ’s mission over personal tastes.

## Lesson Principles to Learn

### 1. Humility Is the Foundation of Collaboration

Philippians 2 roots unity in humility, not in everyone getting their way. Emotionally mature believers can say, “It doesn’t have to be my idea.” This opens the door for shared creativity and cooperation.

### 2. Healthy Compromise Protects the Mission

In Acts 15, the church refuses compromise on salvation by grace, but exercises flexibility on cultural practices. Wise compromise keeps the gospel clear while removing unnecessary barriers.

### 3. Listening Well Is Part of Spiritual Discernment

The Jerusalem Council allowed “much debate,” meaning voices were heard. Emotionally healthy churches understand that good decisions often follow patient listening and shared reflection.

### 4. Unity Requires Both Conviction and Consideration

The final decision in Acts 15 reflects biblical conviction and sensitivity to diverse believers. Emotional maturity holds firm on essentials while showing love and flexibility in non-essentials.

## Case Study

A church is debating whether to adjust the worship style to better reach younger people in the community. Some members feel deeply attached to the current style and fear losing their identity. Others believe the church is not connecting with the next generation and see change as essential to the mission.

Instead of pushing through a quick vote, the pastor and leaders schedule listening sessions.

They study Philippians 2 and Acts 15 together, ask people to share from the heart, and invite prayerful reflection. The final plan includes **both** honoring traditions and intentionally adding newer elements, demonstrating compromise, collaboration, and respect.

## Group Discussion Question:

When we face big decisions or disagreements in our church, what practices can help us follow the pattern of Philippians 2 and Acts 15?

## Summary Paragraph

Philippians 2 and Acts 15 show that emotionally healthy churches face conflict with humility, listening, and a commitment to Christ’s mission. Compromise—rightly practiced—does not weaken the gospel; it strengthens the church’s ability to serve diverse people. Collaboration requires both conviction and consideration. When believers work together this way, differences become opportunities for growth rather than reasons to divide.





# Friendship Baptist Church

## Service Times

### WEDNESDAY

PRAYER MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ 11:30 A.M.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY \_\_\_\_\_ NOON & 6:00 P.M.

### SUNDAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ 9:15 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP EXPERIENCE \_\_\_\_\_ 10:30 A.M.

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## Administrative Office Hours

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