
GET REAL

A STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS

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Essentials of Life Groups

WE GROW IN LIFE GROUPS.

Four key ingredients should be a part of every Life Group:

The Word of God: Whether we study straight from the Bible or study the Bible through devotional books/guides, we are committed to GROWING from the Word of God in Christ.

Growth: We are here because we want to GROW and see our lives transformed to be more like Christ. As part of this GROWTH we commit to pray for each other. We seek to encourage each other and hold each other accountable in the steps of our discipleship process: CONNECT-GROW-SHARE.

Acceptance: As members of this Life Group we seek to accept each other unconditionally as Christ does each of us, seeking to build strong friendships rooted in Christ.

Confidentiality: Everything shared in this group stays with this group. Gossip and slander are unacceptable. Like Christ, we seek the best for each other.

How to Use this Book

Each session in this booklet corresponds to the video teaching you will be watching with your Life Group. This format is set up for groups that meet for 1 ½ hours. You can adjust the times depending on the time limits for your group. Each week the format will be as follows:

Welcome, Introduction, Ice Breakers and Opening Prayer (10-15 min.)

We encourage you to spend a few minutes getting to know each other and reviewing the Essentials of Life Groups.

Read Scripture (5 min.)

Read the text for the lesson each week. Members are encouraged to bring their bibles and read from their bibles. This can be read out loud as a group, taking turns, or read by one member.

Video (10-15 min.)

Watch the video teaching for the week and write down anything that you find particularly relevant.

Discussion Questions (30-40 min.)

We know that you might not be able to answer all of the questions, but spend some time discussing the content of the video and the connected Bible verses. NIV is used unless otherwise noted.

Closing Prayer (10-15 min.)

Please take time to note any praise reports and prayer requests. Please keep these in prayer during the week. You can also include the “during the week” thought in your prayer or just encourage your group to keep this in mind.

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

The focus of this lesson is Philippians 1:6, "...a good work in you." The REAL "YOU" is plural and this verse shows how God does a good work in us as a community of believers.

📖 Read Philippians 1:1-11 together as a group

📺 Watch Video

✍ Video and Scripture response: As we listen to these words in Philippians and think about the video that we just watched, what insights did you gain or what caught your attention or spoke to you?

Text Questions:

1. One of our society's biggest problems is a self-centered individualism. What are your thoughts about Paul's use of the plural "you" in the opening verses of Philippians? How does this change your reading and perspective of these familiar verses?
2. Paul had a "real community" with the Philippian believers even though he was far away from them. In verses 1-11, describe Paul's relationship with the Philippian church.

3. In verses 3 and 4 of Paul's prayer, he uses two key words. What are they? In the midst of being imprisoned, why do you think he used these two words?

4. Read Philippians 1:7 again. What does Paul mean when he says, "for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel" (ESV)? Suppose that Paul had been prevented from communicating with the Philippians or that they had been unresponsive to his situation and needs, or unconcerned with the spread of the Gospel. How would that have changed their mutual experience of Grace?

5. Read Philippians 1:9-11 again. Paul prays that the Philippian Christians will be filled with the "fruit of righteousness." How do you describe being filled with the "fruit of righteousness?"

Application Questions:

1. Paul informed the Philippians that he was in prison, yet he continues to defend and confirm the Gospel. Can a person be imprisoned without being physically locked in a jail or prison? How might that happen? What "prisons" do you sometimes find yourself in? How might you share the Gospel in spite of, or because of, that imprisonment?

2. Paul managed to stay positive and focused on God's work even though he was in chains. What are difficult situations that you have been in that you managed to stay focused on the path God has laid before you?

3. Our culture has a somewhat skewed view of suffering, but if we didn't have trials and rough times we wouldn't be forced to rely on Jesus. What challenges are you facing now that God is helping you through? How can these challenges be used to further his kingdom?

4. How do you think Paul and the Philippians were partners in the Gospel? Who are your Gospel partners? What tasks do you accomplish and what are your shared goals?

5. How important is Community to you? Why?

6. It's a community thing. What various communities are you part of in which God "has begun a good work in you?" How have you seen this happen?

7. Read Matthew 18:20. A well-known author, Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book *Life Together* states, "Therefore, the Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him" ⁽²³⁾. Considering what you just read, what do you think is the difference and importance of Christian fellowship and Christian community verses spending time alone in the word or prayer?

MEMORY VERSE

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer


During the week, also thank God for his wonderful love for you and for your fellow Christians. Use Philippians 1:3 as inspiration: "I thank my God every time I remember you."

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-30

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” This is a contrast to what the world says is real life. To live for Christ is to live for others. For Paul, to live for Christ meant to see the Gospel advanced even when in prison. Paul realized he needed to live out his faith and preach Christ from prison. This was necessary for the Philippians for their progress and joy in faith.

 Read Philippians 1:12-30 together as a group

 Watch Video

 Video and Scripture response: As we listen to these words in Philippians and think about the video that we just watched, what insights did you gain or what caught your attention or spoke to you?

Text Questions:

1. How does Paul decide if his being in jail is good or bad? (Verses 12-14).
2. In verse 20, Paul expresses two options for the future. What are they? From his point of view, what are the implications of each?

3. Read Philippians 1:14, 1:19, and 1:28. Consider Paul's words in these verses (ESV). Words such as confident, without fear, deliverance, not frightened, and salvation. How can Paul's life be said to have been vibrant and authentic while he was in chains? What do fearlessness in speaking the Gospel and confidence in God's deliverance have to do with Real Life, especially in light of Paul's suffering and his words to the Philippians in 1:29 (ESV), "but also suffer for his sake?"

4. As we read last week in Philippians 1:11, Paul prayed that the Philippians would be filled with "the fruit of righteousness." Read 1:19–30. How does Paul describe the state of being filled with this fruit? Are there any parts of this description that you struggle with?

Application Questions:

5. Share your experience of how God used struggles to bring glory to him.

6. For me to live is _____. Looking at your obligations and schedule this week, how would you fill in the blank? What would need to change to be able to fill it in with "Christ?"

7. This week's study poses the question, "What's the purpose, what's it all about, what are we living for?" How do you think most Americans would answer that question? How might different generations respond? Would there be a difference in people living in different regions of the country?

8. How can we find a balance between wanting to be the best version of ourselves and being overly invested in the world? In what ways do motivations matter?

9. In what specific areas in your life have you been called to “live for Christ?” The idea that “to die is gain” is counter cultural. Why would a Christian consider this as “gain?” What is your view on this message?

MEMORY VERSE

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain

Philippians 1:21


Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer


During the week, meditate on the following questions: Why did God put me in this place? At this time? How am I living for him? If time permits or the group is comfortable, discuss answers at the next meeting.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

Our world can sometimes focus on ambition to only climb the ladder. What about an ambition that seeks unity through humility? What about Christ's humility for us and to unite us with him? We should in turn have this same Real Ambition.

 **Read Philippians 2:1-11 together as a group**

 **Watch Video**

 **Video and Scripture response:** As we listen to these words in Philippians and think about the video that we just watched, what insights did you gain or what caught your attention or spoke to you?

Text Questions:

1. Philippians 2:1-11 is often titled, "Christ's Example of Humility" or "Imitating Christ's Humility." Describe humility as displayed by Jesus. How do we sometimes define humility differently?
2. Using Philippians 2:1-4, what do you think was wrong with the Philippian church?

3. Explain the cause and effects between Philippians 2:2 and 2:3-4.

4. How does Christ's example of becoming a servant relate to Philippians 2:1-5?

5. Ambition as we commonly understand it pertains to individual aspirations toward some higher achievement or recognition. Paul's words in 2:1-11 present a contrasting, paradoxical picture of truly meaningful ambition as a subjection of individual desires and interests to a greater unified purpose that turns outward from self for the benefit of others. He describes how Christ emptied and humbled himself in obedience to his Father, who then exalted him above all else. Explain how Paul's words, "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus..." (2:5 ESV) give the key to aligning oneself humbly with other believers in service to God's purpose.

Application Questions:

1. What was your ambition when you were in high school? What's your ambition now? Finish this sentence: My real ambition is _____.

2. Paul's message of humility is so beautifully stated in chapter 2. How is it possible for us, who sin, to be of one mind? How can we promote unity in our community?

3. How are our daily interactions and conversations focused on ourselves? How can we change this attitude?

4. Write down every adjective that you can think of to describe Jesus in verses 2:6-11. Discuss.

5. In what area of your life do you need the Holy Spirit's help to have the attitude of Christ?

6. Read verses 2:6-8 again. Can our lives ever measure up to the life that Jesus lived? Why would Paul hold up Jesus to be our model if we can never reach his level of humility and obedience?

7. What are some things we can do to practice Christ-like humility within our community?

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Philippians 2:1-2

Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer


During the week think of your conversational interactions. How many of these conversations are centered on ME?)

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30

We live in a world where often the focus is on career, sometimes to the point of idolatry. It's not about our jobs, careers, work, etc., but about God's work through us, and us working out our salvation with fear and trembling.

 **Read Philippians 2:12-30 together as a group**

 **Watch Video**

 **Video and Scripture response:** As we listen to these words in Philippians and think about the video that we just watched, what insights did you gain or what caught your attention or spoke to you?

Text Questions:

1. Using chapter 2:1-4, what does it mean to work out your salvation? What part is up to you and what part is up to God?

2. In Philippians 2:12-16 Paul uses three different words that are translated "work out," "works in," or "work," and "labor," to describe the respective roles that the Philippians, God and he had in bringing about the perfection of God's salvation and purpose to the Philippians. What was the nature of each of these types of "work," and how was each party's work uniquely meaningful (real)?

3. Read verses 2:14-16. How would you rate yourself in following these guidelines? Now read verse 13. What reassurance does this verse give us when we realize that we've fallen short?

4. What makes Christians "shine like stars?" (see also Matthew 5:16).

5. Using Philippians 2:19-24 and James 4:13-17, give possible reasons why Paul was so utterly dependent on the Lord.

6. What do you learn from chapter 2:19-24 about how Timothy honors God and serves others?

Application Questions:

1. Write down 3-5 words that describe your current work. Share with your group.

2. Based on the text from Philippians and your knowledge of scripture, what is the relationship between faith, salvation and good works?

3. Why is working for our salvation unnecessary?

4. So much of our American identity is grounded in our work. Often when meeting someone new, we will be asked what our name is followed by “where do you work?” or “what do you do?” Is this in line with God’s desire for us? How can we shift our identity?

5. Our real work is to reflect and direct the light of Christ. See Matthew 5:13-16. Can our attitude and habits on our jobs make a positive impact for Christ? Give examples.

6. How can we further God’s work in our daily job that he has placed us in?

MEMORY VERSE

for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Philippians 2:13

Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer


During the week think about where God placed you to serve him. God has placed you there for a reason. Are you willing to serve him in that place? Are you willing to ask him to make you his servant?

REAL confidence


5

PHILIPPIANS 3:1–11

It's not about me. Not my own righteousness. The message in the world is that you have to have self-esteem and self-confidence to move forward and accomplish and be somebody. Even the religions of the world sometimes make the mistake of putting a spiritual spin on this concept. Knowing Christ is the source of confidence, and that our confidence comes from the righteousness of God.

 **Read Philippians 3:1-11 together as a group**

 **Watch Video**

 **Video and Scripture response:** As we listen to these words in Philippians and think about the video that we just watched, what insights did you gain or what caught your attention or spoke to you?

Text Questions:

1. In chapter 3:3, what three attributes of circumcised people does Paul describe?
2. What were Paul's religious credentials, or what did he consider his fleshly self-esteem? (3:5-6)

3. Why did Paul regard them as trash? (3:7-8)

4. What was the source of Paul's righteousness before God? (3:9)

5. Examine what Paul says about fleshly confidence in 3:2-11. Looking back at chapter 1:14, 19, and 28, how did Paul's seemingly daunting physical (fleshly) circumstances of imprisonment inspire spiritual confidence in other believers and embolden them to speak the gospel without fear? What does Paul mean by "deliverance" and "salvation" in these verses? How could the Philippian believers' fearlessness have signaled to their adversaries their own destruction and the believers' salvation?

Application Questions:

1. What part of your heritage do you hold dear (i.e., you're a descendent of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence)? Share with the group.

2. Is there any area of your life that you take too much pride in? An area that you should count as loss instead?

3. Pastor Bob used the term "divine humility." How do you define that term? What does it look like in actuality to replace self-esteem with Christ-esteem?

4. When Paul changed his outlook from self-esteem to Christ esteem, how did his values change?

5. We can take confidence in knowing that Christ has declared us righteous. Christ is the sole source of our identity and confidence. We are saved by faith alone, by grace alone, and by Scripture alone. How does this truth influence our actions? How should it? How should that confidence influence our daily lives?

6. Pastor Bob said that God's power is seen in weakness. If you feel comfortable, please share what this means to you.

MEMORY VERSE

What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:8

Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer


During the week think about what Pastor Bob said about God's power being seen in our weakness. If you are comfortable, come back at your next meeting and talk about what this means to you.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-4:3

Our culture has a way of defining winning as those things that we accomplish here on earth; money, lots of stuff, great careers, etc. However God defines real winning, our real prize, as what he accomplished for us, his resurrection and ultimately our eternity in heaven with him. Because of what Jesus accomplished for us, a real “win” for us is sharing our faith with others so they too will be a citizen in heaven.

 **Read Philippians 3:12-4:3 together as a group**

 **Watch Video**

 **Video and Scripture response:** As we listen to these words in Philippians and think about the video that we just watched, what insights did you gain or what caught your attention or spoke to you?

Text Questions:

1. How can we tell that Paul feels that he has not yet arrived?
2. What do you think Paul actually means when he says: “Forgetting what is behind...?”

3. How does Paul describe the enemies of the cross of Christ?

4. It might be said that fleshly pursuits involve an attempt to live well (by achieving wealth, power, fame or knowledge; by chasing pleasure; or by trying to live up to some standard of good by one's own efforts), while heavenly pursuits prepare one to die well (by focusing earthly efforts on eternal outcomes). Having given up his fleshly attempts to attain righteousness on his own, Paul refocused himself on living in Christ's righteousness and identifying with Christ in his life, his death and resurrection, and his upward call to an eternal reward. How might Paul be said to have been "winning" in both a temporal and an eternal sense, despite his chains and the uncertainty of his future?

5. How do you react to the statement, "Heaven is not your home?" (see Matthew 19:21-23; Luke 6:23; and 2Timothy 4:18). Talk about your understanding of Heaven.

6. Read Philippians 3:20. What does it mean to you that you are a citizen of heaven?

7. From chapter 4:1, when Paul addresses the Philippian believers in this way, how do you think it makes them feel? What is the "therefore" there for?

Application Questions:

1. How do you define winning? What would you like to win? What are the most earthly distractions we face today?
2. Why is it important in our lives to “forget what lies behind?”
3. How can dwelling on past discouragements or non-Christ like life styles slow your spiritual growth?
4. What impediments does it feel like Satan has put there for you?
5. What is God putting in your path to empower you on your race?
6. What does it look like in a practical sense to further the Kingdom of Heaven?
7. What do you think the afterlife will actually look like?

MEMORY VERSE

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14


Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer


During the week think about the gifts and talents you have. How can these gifts be used in reaching the ultimate intended prize instead of the earthly race?

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-23

Real joy is found in the peace of God, the strength of God, and a life of generosity toward one another. No matter what life, this world, our culture, our families, our friends, etc. throw at us, we can be assured that God will provide us with a joy that is deeply rooted in his love for us.

 **Read Philippians 4:4-23 together as a group**

 **Watch Video**

 **Video and Scripture response:** As we listen to these words in Philippians and think about the video that we just watched, what insights did you gain or what caught your attention or spoke to you?

Text Questions:

1. State phrases Paul used in this section which show his profound caring for the Philippians.
2. Can you name the fruit of the Spirit without looking up the list found in Galatians 5:22-23?

3. Joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit works the fruit of faith in believing hearts. How do you think he does this?

4. Counting only once the double exhortation to rejoice in 4:4, we see that twelve times in his brief epistle to the Philippians, Paul speaks of rejoicing or joy (1:4, 1:18, 1:25, 2:17-18, 2:28-29, 3:1, 4:1, 4:4, 4:10). In six of these instances he is urging the Philippians to rejoice or expressing his desire that they have joy. In the six instances which refer to his own joy, he is rejoicing in the Philippians partnership with him in the faith, their concern for him, their unity with each other, the proclamation of the gospel, and his sacrificial service to Christ. The lack of selfishness and the sense of community stand out in these mentions. Why are Paul's references to real joy embedded in a context of selflessness and connection with others?

5. In chapter 4:6, what does Paul want us to do instead of worrying?

6. In chapter 4:8, Paul tells us how to transform our thoughts. List the qualities that believers should concentrate on. How does the saying, "garbage in, garbage out" apply to this verse?

7. What word or words of Paul were used in verse 9 to encourage us to move thinking into action? Why do you think that is necessary?

8. From Chapter 4:14-23. What have the Philippians given Paul? And what does Paul promise in return? How does this relate to joy?

9. God says in Exodus 20:17 "You shall not covet." Coveting is an easy sin to fall into and it leads to restlessness and wanting. What does Paul say in Philippians 4:18-20 regarding this?

Application Questions:

1. What gives you joy? Share with the group.
2. At what point in your life was this "your Philippians verse here" on your coffee mug? Why? What's changed and how do you view this verse now?
3. Rejoicing always is one tough mind set to have. How can we, in community, encourage one another? Internalize joy?
4. How much more meaningful would our ministry be to our non-Christian friends than to rejoice when times are tough?

5. How then do we live out our faith to Get Real?

- A prayerful life – what verses guide you in your prayer life?
- A thinking life – Read Philippians 4:8 again. What comes to mind when you think about the true, the honorable, the just, the pure, the lovely, the commendable, the excellent? Share your thoughts.
- A generous life – Paul acknowledged the generosity of the Philippians and their funds and support were blessed to be a blessing to others. Share a time when you have seen this happen.

6. Hopefully by now you've read all chapters of Philippians. What verses grabbed you the most? What have you learned from this study?

MEMORY VERSE

**Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!**

Philippians 4:4



Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer

During the week ask God to help you apply all you have learned in this study. Ask him to help you Get Real with your life and live the life he would have for you.

LEADER NOTES

Session 1 Real Community

Text Questions:

1. Many people hear these verses and think only of themselves. It's important to be reminded of our identity as a body of believers and our place in the family of God. Focusing on this group-identity helps us get away from thinking everything is about me.
2. "I thank my God every time I remember you." V. 3. "I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel." V. 4, 5 He has them in his heart V. 7 He loves them dearly, with Christ's love V. 8 He considers them spirit filled V. 11, and part of the family of God.
3. Thankfulness and joy. Answers will vary.
4. Not even imprisonment or persecution can change the sharing of God's grace. Even in Paul's imprisonment they willingly defended themselves with Paul by sending Epaphroditus and their financial gifts. They had become one with Paul in his persecution.
5. Thoughts, words and deeds that are produced in a person who is righteous.

Application Questions:

1. Imprisonment can be the wrongs done to us because of our faith in Christ. We can often share Christ in the midst of these circumstances and sometimes more profoundly.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Great open-ended question to get people sharing.
4. They both received it and wanted to share it with others. It's important to think about working with others in sharing the Gospel.
5. Try to help others see how important it is to have meaningful Christ-centered friendships.

6. Try to get people thinking about family, small groups, church.... What is God doing in those communities?
7. Open-ended question, answers will vary.

Session 2 Real Life

Text Questions:

1. Whether or not the word of God is being spread.
2. That he will exalt Christ either through his life or his death.
 - V. 22 He will be alive to labor for the gospel.
 - V. 23 If he died, he would be with Christ, where he would like to be.
3. Others were encouraged and he was in God's grace no matter what happened to him. A fulfilled life really has to do with living a life of deliverance and telling others about that, even in the midst of persecution.
4. Answers will vary. Take time to struggle with these verses.

Application Questions:

1. Answers vary. Not everyone has to answer. As a HOST, be prepared with a struggle of your own.
2. Where we devote our time tells a lot about our lives
3. Rampant individualism runs through America. Different countries, however, have a higher view of community.
4. Having Christ as the purpose of our lives, to know him and to make him known is real life. In death we are united with him. When He comes again all will be made new, recreated!
5. Answers will vary.

Session 3 Real Ambition

Text Questions:

1. The extent of Jesus' humility is almost unfathomable, the lengths he went to unite us with the Father. Sometimes we define humility as just a fraction of what He has demonstrated.
2. Answers will vary but can include that they had different opinions, they were selfish, and vain and some considered themselves better than others. They did not take care of each other.
3. If you are united, then nothing is done selfishly or out of pride, but instead humbly, looking out for others' interests.
4. By taking on the form of a bondservant, he was the model of humility.
5. Real Ambition starts with Christ's humble ambition for us.

Application Questions:

1. Answers will vary.
2. Worshipping, growing and serving together helps us be of one mind. Forgiving each other plays a big part as well. Acts of service always bring people together.
3. We often want to talk about ourselves alone. Genuinely listening and wanting to hear other people's stories is tougher to do in many ways, but something we ought to do, especially given the words and actions of Paul.
4. Equal, serving, humble, obedient, exalted, above, etc...
5. Answers will vary.
6. Wrestle with this question a bit. If we can never achieve what Jesus has achieved does that mean we shouldn't try? The higher the bar the more we realize we need Jesus and his grace. The more He will accomplish through us.
7. Could be an opportunity to think about how your group could serve together.

Session 4 Real Work

Text Questions:

1. First it means to be united by his love, by what Christ has done for us and the fact that he has created us to be his redeemed people. Then from there, by his grace, by his Spirit, we yearn to be obedient to God, letting him conform our will to His, to rely on Him for guidance. Our work is to be obedient; His is to mold us to His will, giving us the energy and desire to obey him.
2. It all starts with God's work in us, which allows us to work for his glory here and now.
3. God works in us to accomplish these guidelines. When we fail we return to his work of grace and forgiveness in our lives.
4. When we reflect God's goodness and love so others will see Him through us and marvel at his miraculous love and care. As Trevor said: "Direct that light of Christ towards our neighbor in love, sharing Christ with our service and resources."
5. Answers may vary but can include: He was all alone, no one was with him except Timothy, he had no idea what would happen to him in the future.
6. He and Paul were like-minded. He serves with Paul in the spreading of the Gospel. He thinks of others before himself and puts Jesus first in his life. He helps Paul like a child serves his father.

Application Questions:

1. Self-explanatory
2. We are saved by faith, not because of works. We are created for good works, which are done for our neighbor, that they may experience the grace of God.
3. God does the work of salvation. We express that salvation in spiritual growth and development
4. It might be good to define ourselves more by what work God is doing in our lives and how we are working for his glory. This does include our jobs but it includes so much more: family, service, friendships, etc...
5. Yes! Share something from your experience to get the conversation going.
6. Realize he has placed us in relationships and places of influence for the sake of shining his love.

Session 5 Real Confidence

Text Questions:

1. They worship by the Spirit of God, glory in Jesus Christ, and put no confidence in the flesh.
2. Circumcised (sign of God's covenant people); religious pedigree: Israelite, Benjaminite, Hebrew of Hebrews; Pharisee- law follower; zealous persecutor of the church; legalistic "righteousness."
3. They really didn't give him life.
4. From God by faith.
5. Paul relied on Jesus in hard circumstances. His example empowered other believers, pointing out what really matters. Deliverance could refer to Paul's release from prison or the prisoners or the deliverance from death for the believer. They did not fear death or persecution, that's real confidence.

Application Questions:

1. Family tree, country of origin, accomplishment of your great grandfather, etc...
2. Sometimes we take pride in things that have nothing to do with God and his great work among us.
3. Open-ended question, answers will vary.
4. Open-ended question, answers will vary.
5. Lived for God's purposes, not his own.
6. It frees us to be confident in doing his work in the world and our standing before God.
7. Many times God uses the weakest parts of our lives to accomplish great things and to make us realize that He is the one at work.

Session 6 Real Winning

Text Questions:

1. "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." He uses the expression straining toward what is ahead.
2. He means not only forgetting failures but also successes, so they do not get in the way of Jesus in his life.
3. Those who indulge in evil living with their mind on earthly things. V. 19
4. His identity as a citizen of heaven made everything on earth more manageable, allowing him to focus on the joys of community around him. Even though he was in prison.
5. The main teaching is that God will one day redeem all creation when Jesus comes again.
6. We have all the rights of citizenship in God's kingdom, here and now on this earth.
7. Answers may vary. "Therefore" is the culmination of the previous verses and the beginning of Paul's closing section.

Application Questions:

1. Open-ended, answers will vary.
2. It can be stifling and limiting.
3. Doesn't allow God to work in your present or realize his gifts of grace and mercy for you now and for eternity.
4. Open-ended, answers will vary.
5. Open-ended, answers will vary.
6. Allow time to explore this.
7. Focus on all creation being renewed. We don't know what it will be like for sure... but it's interesting to think about and to realize that we should only base our thinking on what the Word says.

Session 7 Real Joy

Text Questions:

1. Open-ended, answers will vary.
2. Look up verse.
3. Spend time speculating about this
4. That is where Joy is really found, especially as it reflects Christ's work in Philippians 2.
5. Be anxious for nothing. Instead pray and let your request be made known to God.
6. Whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, anything excellent and worthy of praise.
7. Practice these things. Answers may vary.
8. Money and prayer. My God shall supply all your needs. V. 19. Answers will vary.
9. God meets our needs.

Application Questions:

1. Open-ended, answers will vary.
2. Open-ended. Hopefully we all view "you" in the plural, focusing on our community of faith over ourselves as individuals.
3. Open-ended, answers will vary.
4. They see something unique in us, otherworldly, because of our heavenly citizenship.
5. Pray, think, be generous
6. Open-ended, answers will vary.

Ice Breakers

to do with your group if time allows

Take something from your wallet/purse and tell how it relates to you.

Tell about the most positive conversation that you had today.

Tell about the most interesting thing that happened to you today.

Tell about the most humorous incident that you experienced in the last year.

My favorite fun activity when I was a child was...

The thing that drives me crazy is...

We celebrated Easter when I was a child by...

My favorite movie of all times is...

My idea of a great vacation is...

My favorite food is...

If I could visit any era of history, I would visit...

My favorite childhood memory is...

My favorite leisure activity is...

Tell about the best birthday present you ever received.

Share one of the happiest days of your life.

Describe what your day was like today.

If you had to move and could only take three things with you, what would you take?

While growing up I saw God as...

What would you do if someone willed you a million dollars?

If you could do anything you want this time next year, what would it be?

WORKS CITED

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. Revised/Expanded ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1954. Print.

Thank You

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