

## Philippians Discussion Questions 09.17.17

### Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

### **Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.**

1. Share a story about how you have seen God use the hard things in life to draw you closer to him.
2. How do you know when someone is being courageous?

### Background

Paul shares with the Philippians his struggle between wanting to depart this life to be with Jesus, but knowing that it was better for those who look to him as their spiritual leader for him to stay. Paul does not shy away from the struggle nor does he try to hide it, he trusts that God will use his experiences for good. That knowledge does not take away the reality that living under persecution and trials is difficult.

Read Philippians 1:18b-26

### Questions

#### **Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.**

1. According to verse 19 what does Paul point to as the deciding factors in his experiences being used for his deliverance?
2. What do you think Paul meant when he wrote verse 21?
3. Paul was convinced that he was of better use to the Philippians alive and so he chose to remain. Since he was sticking around, what was he going to help the Philippians with?

#### **Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.**

1. How does asking for others to pray for you help you when life is challenging?
2. How would Paul change verse 21 if he wrote it to Hillcrest Chapel today?
3. What steps do we need to take to have more joy in our faith?

#### **Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.**

1. We know it helps when we ask others to pray for us. Why then can it be so challenging to actually ask for those things that are the scariest?
2. What do we need to do differently to better exemplify living the truth of verse 21?
3. How can we boast about Jesus in a way that draws others to him rather than pushing them away?

### Closing

Take some time together to pray for specific requests that maybe we have been holding on to rather than sharing. Also, pray that we would all live joyfully and regularly boast in Jesus in a way that draws people in to him.

Reminder: The goal and highest achievement for those who follow Jesus as their King and Savior is to live like him.