

Philippians Discussion Questions

09.03.17

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. When you write to or talk with those you are closest to how do you tell them how much they mean to you?
2. How do you feel when someone shares with you that they find joy in having you as a friend?

Background

Many of the letters written by Paul followed a style that was common during the first century in the Roman Empire. They begin with a greeting and then move into the main message of the letter. In this case, Paul opens with a recounting of his thankfulness for the relationship he has with the church at Philippi.

Read Philippians 1:3-11

Questions

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

1. What is the source of Paul's joy when he prays for the church at Philippi?
2. What does Paul point to as the reason it is right for him to feel this way about the people in Philippi?
3. What does Paul pray will be true for the Philippian church?

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

1. What do you think verse 6 means and what might it look like in our lives today?
2. How can we join in the mission of Paul to defend and confirm the gospel?
3. According to verses 9 and 10 what is the goal of abounding more and more in knowledge and insight?

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

4. Who do you thank God for?
5. Who has shown you the compassion of Jesus?
6. What does it mean to be motivated by the *splagchna* of Jesus?
7. What does it look like when our lives are "filled with the fruit of righteousness that come from Christ Jesus"?
8. Who are you going to write a prayer for?

Closing

Spend some time praying that we would each become more and more people who create the kind of joyful response that Paul has when he thinks of and prays for the Philippians.

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