

## Philippians Discussion Questions 11.19.17

### 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. Talk about a time when someone “showed up” for you in a big way (a timely gift, visiting you when you felt forgotten, caring for you in a difficult time, etc). What was the situation? How did the person show up for you? What impact did it make on you?

### Background

Paul ends his letter by pulling in several of his major themes, joy, gratitude, and how his imprisonment is going. He thanks the Philippi church again for their practical care of him through the financial gift brought by Epaphroditus. He reminds them again of his joy in Christ in the midst of imprisonment. He is able to demonstrate his gratitude while also talking about his joy in Christ that transcends his material circumstances. He ends with words of encouragement that direct the Philippians attention to praise of God.

Read Philippians 4:10 - 23

### Questions

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

1. Roman prisons did not provide prisoners with food. Talk about what Epaphroditus' gift would have felt like for Paul.
2. How does Paul both express gratitude and also show that he wasn't complaining about how hard prison was?
3. Paul's entire ministry vocation probably lasted about 15 years, much of which he was in prison for. Talk about his impact on those around him, world history, and what enabled him to make such an impact.
4. How is the unity between Paul and the Philippians illustrated practically in this passage?

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

1. How does Paul's view of material comfort challenge our society's view of material comfort?
2. How does the promise of v13 mean something different and deeper than the way it is commonly used? (For example, a Christian athlete believing that God will help them win the game).

3. How would you explain the promise of v19 to someone struggling with the idea of sacrificial giving?

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

1. What personally challenges you about Paul's words in this passage?
2. Where does the promise of v13 resonate for you personally right now?
3. Where does the promise of v19 resonate for you personally right now?
4. Is there anyone with whom you are currently partnering in their suffering with? Is there someone you feel lead to partner with? What motivates you to do this?
5. As this is the last sermon in the Philippians series, reflect back on our time in this book. How has God met you in the sermons and small group studies?

Pray