

## Philippians Discussion Questions 10.01.17

### 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 of a time when you have seen the desire for unity go wrong.
2. What are the essential pieces that need to be in place for a group of people to be unified?

### Background

The city of Philippi was a Roman city, but it was one of several cities in the Empire that had been set aside for soldiers who had earned "spoils" from battles with the Roman Legion. The people who lived in Philippi were for the most part Roman citizens which meant they were protected under the law. However, the persecution of Christians by the leaders of the Roman Empire was increasing in frequency and ferocity. This is likely part of why Paul repeatedly stresses the ongoing suffering they are all experiencing and the need to stay united.

Read Philippians 2:1-4

### Questions

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

1. Paul calls for the Philippians to stay unified; in verse 1 what does he point to as the basis for that unity?
2. In verses 3 and 4 Paul points out negative actions that will divide the people. What does Paul tell them not to do?

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

1. What does it look like when we are one in spirit and of one mind?
2. Paul's call to be selfless in verses 3-4 is no less difficult today than it was in the first century. How do we put the interests of others ahead of ourselves?

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

1. What do you think the key is to prevent an "Us vs. Them" mentality to creep into our desire to be unified? How does being united with Jesus help us avoid closing our group to those who are outside?
2. What difference does it make when we are more concerned about the interests of others than ourselves?

### Closing

Spend a few minutes praying for one another as you finish up. Pray that we would look for ways to put the interests of others before our own so that we can demonstrate for those around us the love of Jesus for them.

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