

Philippians Discussion Questions 09.10.17

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 something you have experienced that God used to further his Kingdom.
2. How do you feel when you encounter people who are preaching about Jesus but for their own selfish motives?

Background

Paul wrote to the church at Philippi from prison, but he did not let the fact that he was in chains keep him from sharing the truth about Jesus. In fact Paul's witness was so powerful that even the men guarding him could not deny he was in prison because of his faith. Paul then shifted gears a bit and addressed a concern that had likely been brought to him. I am not sure anyone expected the answer Paul gave.

Read Philippians 1:12 - 18

Questions

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

1. How has Paul's imprisonment affected the advancement of the gospel?
2. What does Paul credit with the increased confidence and daring of most of the brothers and sisters?
3. Paul talks about the motivations of those teaching about Jesus. What does he think is most important, motivation or that the truth about Jesus is being preached?

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

1. What challenges are you facing today that could be used to advance the gospel?
2. What stories can you think of from our modern world that mirror this experience of increased daring and confidence when a leader is persecuted?
3. What type of person in our world today fits the description Paul has here of someone teaching from selfish motivations?

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

1. How do we live in such a way that our reaction to negative experiences is like Paul's so that the gospel is advanced?
2. What change in mindset or actions can we make to become more like Paul so that no matter our experience those around us gain daring and confidence in sharing about Jesus?
3. How should we respond to those preaching the truth of Jesus from selfish motives if we want to follow Paul's example?

Closing

Take a few minutes at the close of your time together and pray for one another. As a new school year begins pray for the students, teachers, parents and others in the community who work tirelessly to provide a positive experience for students. Also, pray that each of us would find ways to preach the truth of Jesus that those around us would be encouraged and their confidence and daring to join in the teaching would increase.

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