

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 20-26, 2020

“PRESCRIPTIONS FOR PEACE”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What would you consider as the best relationship that you have today with someone (whether it's with a friend, or a relative, or a spouse)? Why do you consider your relationship with this person a great one?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Philippians 4:2-9.

1. Why do you think Paul makes such a public display of these women? Why is he so concerned for unity in the Philippian church? Why might it be significant that they each labored with Paul or that their names are in the book of life?
2. What effect do you think their broken relationship was having on the rest of the church? What does it mean to “agree in the Lord” or “be of the same mind in the Lord”? What would that look like in your life? Does this mean that we can't disagree? As Christians, how should we respond to disagreements and conflicts (cf. Matthew 18:15-17)?
3. What did Paul ask the “loyal yokefellow,” Clement, and the rest of Paul's fellow workers in this dispute between these women? Have you ever been involved in helping others work through a disagreement? What was the most difficult part of being a peacemaker? How important is it that we Christians strive to be peacemakers in our homes, at work, and in our church? Do you think this is something that everyone is called to do?
4. Read Philippians 4:4. What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? Why do you think Paul specifies “always”? Describe how it might be possible to do this especially during times of conflict. Can someone who is really full of joy continue to fight with people?

5. Read Philippians 4:5. What does “gentleness being evident to all” look like? Would you rather be treated justly or gently? How can gentleness be used to dissolve disputes between people?
6. Read Philippians 4:6. Paul tells the Philippian church to not be anxious about anything. What kind of negative results come from being anxious? What should be the role of prayer when we have conflict with someone? How does this help resolve conflict and strife between believers?
7. Read each adjectives in verse 8 carefully. How can thinking about these things help to prevent us from being involved in conflicts with others or help us restore disagreements in a God-honoring way? What are some things that are opposite of this list? How does this clarify what Paul is talking about? Do any examples come to mind?
8. **[NEXT STEPS]**
I want to have the peace of God in my life this week. I will work on applying these prescriptions from Paul, whether as a peacemaker or in handling personal disputes.
 - ☐ I will commit on resolving all disputes in a God-honoring manner as soon as possible.
 - ☐ I will strive to be a peacemaker.
 - ☐ I will restore joy, gentleness, prayer and right thinking.
 - ☐ I will work to implement the principles of thinking about excellent and praiseworthy things.
 - ☐ I will practice Matthew 18:15-17.

Don't forget to:

 - ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
 - ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
 - ☐ Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for peace in your life and family, and pray for the resolution of any conflict that you are currently experiencing.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.