

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 7-13, 2022

"MARKED BY LOVE"

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 do you do when you have a bad day?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Paul's letter in Philippians 1:1-11. Describe Paul's tone in this letter and how do you think the Philippians responded to this as it was read during a church service? How would you respond if this letter was personally given to you?
2. How is God at work in the believer's life according to verse 6 and 9-11? How does this make you feel about the uncertainties in your life?
3. What do you learn about Paul's relationship with God and the Philippians from his prayer in verses 9-11? How can you relate? Why was there a need to remind the ancient Philippian church (and today's modern church) to love?
4. Paul desires the Philippians' love to abound more and more with knowledge and discernment. How might a lack of knowledge and discernment hinder you from abounding in love? What do you think are the dangers of undiscerning love? Can you think of a specific example, scenario or experience?
5. Our knowledge and discernment corresponds to the amount of time we spend in God's Word. Do you agree? In what way is this true? How much of a part of your routine do you spend in meditating/ studying on God's Word and speaking to him in prayer?
6. Pastor Nic remarked that, *"it's easier to love people you've never seen or met than the people you see everyday."* How true is this in your life? (Share a time when this happened to you.) What are ways you can love the people in your life, especially the fellow brothers and sisters?

7. In Paul's prayer, he put a high emphasis on the spiritual needs of others more than the physical needs. Share one personal spiritual need that you can pray for one another in the coming week. (Be specific.)

8. NEXT STEPS

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:35

- I will meditate on Philippians 1:9-11 and make it my daily prayer this week.
- I commit to pray for my fellow small group members every day this week.
- I will express *agape* love for my brothers and sisters in Christ.
- I will live a life of integrity and glorify God in the process.
- I will share Jesus and his love with others, and reach out to my friends and loved ones.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

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

- Pray to love more and more each day with knowledge and discernment. Pray for a love that results to right choices.
- Pray for a heart that is willing to help, to love and to care for others.
- Pray for a love that's growing, a love that's knowing, and a love that's showing.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

August 8	Philippians 4:4-6
August 9	1 Corinthians 13:4-7
August 10	Psalms 101:1-8
August 11	Psalms 92
August 12	1 John 4:7-8
August 13	Psalms 29:1-11
August 14	Luke 17:7-10