

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 15-21, 2024

“WHEN CHRIST IS THE CENTER”

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 does your dream house look like? If it is your current home, how would you like to improve it?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Philippians 1:18-30.

1. Paul said in 1:19 that he would be delivered because of the lavish supply of Jesus' Spirit and the Philippian believers' intercession for him. How are these two connected? In what ways do we consider these two aspects of the Christian life as important and yet never apply them?
2. Philippians 1:21 is an often-quoted verse. What did it mean for Paul to say, “For me, to live is Christ...”? What would the “to live is Christ” life be like for the contemporary/modern believer? Share some examples.
3. One way to clarify the truth of verse 21 is to think about its opposite, where Paul says, “...to die is gain.” Was this because Paul was having adversity in life? If not, what did he mean by this? What do we learn about death in this verse?
4. Think of people you know that do not follow God. How would they complete the sentence, “For me, to live is ...”
5. Paul believed that every day of life afforded him the opportunity to bear more fruit in ministry. He was excited to help the Philippians make pioneer advances in their faith and joy. How can you cultivate and live with the same mind-set as a Christian? Give specific examples.

6. When you read between the lines of Philippians 1:27-30, what do we learn about the Philippian church from this passage? What does it mean to live a life worthy of the gospel?
7. In verses 29-30, it seems that Paul is saying that suffering for Christ is a privilege. Do you see suffering as a burden or a privilege? Why is it that many Christians are not prepared for suffering?

NEXT STEPS

- I will choose joy not matter what adversity comes my way.
- Like Paul, I will live for Christ and won't be afraid of death.
- I will live fruitfully, laboring for Jesus while I am still alive.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day 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 for a heart like Paul that declares, “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.”
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- 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 GUIDE

September 16	Philippians 1:21-26
September 17	Romans 5:1-11
September 18	Philippians 1:27-30
September 19	Luke 10:1-12
September 20	2 Corinthians 5:1-5
September 21	Psalms 25:1-22
September 22	Matthew 20:20-28