

Philippians Discussion Questions

10.22.17

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 about a time when someone went above and beyond to do something special for you.
2. How do you feel when others walk with you through hard times?

Background

Paul followed his description of Jesus and how he lived and was then exalted by God with a call to the Philippians to follow Jesus's example. Specifically, Paul encourages his readers to live in such a way that those around them take note of how they respond to hardship. So that they would shine like stars and Paul would be able to boast about them when Jesus returns.

The section of the letter we are looking at this week follows this and Paul switches gears a bit and talks about two people who have been with him for some time and have proven to be examples of what he has just described. First he discusses Timothy who was like a son to Paul and had spent time traveling with him before he was imprisoned. Then Paul mentioned Epaphroditus who was sent to him by the Philippian church to care for his needs.

Read Philippians 2:19-30

Questions

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

1. Why is Paul excited to send Timothy to Philippi?
2. What is Paul waiting to happen before he sends Timothy to Philippi?
3. Why does Epaphroditus want to return to Philippi?
4. How does Paul encourage the church to greet Epaphroditus?

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

1. When people leave Hillcrest to do mission work what does Paul's comments here tell us about the kinds of news they may want to hear from us?
2. How can we follow the lead of Timothy and look out for the interest of Jesus Christ?
3. What would our lives look like if we followed the example set by Epaphroditus?
4. When missionaries are home on furlough or return from serving as missionaries what should be our response?

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

1. What does it take to put others before ourselves? How do you think that helps others see Jesus?
2. What is the work of the gospel that God is calling each of us to? What steps do we need to take to start or continue the work?

3. Serving Jesus can be risky, what needs to happen for us to take that risk?
4. Should we celebrate those who serve Jesus sacrificially? What do you think those celebrations should look like?

Closing

As you finish your time together take a few minutes to pray together. Pray for the wisdom, courage and strength to follow the examples Paul has given us in Timothy and Ephraim of how to serve Jesus well.

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