

“Rejoice in the Lord!”

A study of the Book of Philippians

Life Group Guide for Nov. 6 – 20, 2016

(Session Two)

1. Check-in and Opening Prayer:

Open your time together with a time of welcome, sharing of highs and lows, joys and concerns, etc. Make sure everyone has a chance to greet the members of the group and share a few words. Conclude this part of your time together with prayer. Central to what LifeGroups are all about is being an intentional caring community for the sake of others. Together we grow in faith, and seek God’s guidance.

2. Introduction to This Week’s Philippians Study: Read Chapter 2: 1-11.

3. Reflect upon what you heard in Sunday’s sermon. What are some of the things that stood out to you? What are some new things you heard in the sermon? What are some questions you may have from what Pr. Tim said?

4. Discussion Questions:

- A. How does this chapter of Philippians begin? Look at chapter two, verses one through 4. One of the things we must do is understand the exhortations in 2: 1-4. Paul is instructing them on how to remain strong and unified in their ministry: **“Be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”** This sounds like good advice for anyone or any organization, but what makes Paul’s advice to this early church different? **Discuss.**
- B. Chapter 2: 1-4 is a lesson on unity. Paul wants the church in Philippi to remain united and stand strong in the midst of all things, good advice for anyone. But what is key to understanding this section of Philippians comes in verses 5 -11. **Read 2: 5-11.** These verses are probably from a hymn sung by the early Christian church. Verse 5 really gets at what Paul means by being of one mind, one mind in ‘Christ.’
- C. What greater example of being of the same mind for a church is there, that living in the example of Jesus Christ our Lord? Jesus gave us the best example of what it means to put others first, of humbling ourselves and being obedient servants. Jesus is the strength and example of how each of us should live each day. **How do you see yourself as living in the example of Christ each day? How about the ministry of Our Savior’s? How about the broader church as a whole? What makes being, “of one mind in Christ,” different than being, “of one mind,” in anything else?**

D. What else stands out for you in **2: 1-11**? What are some of the things mentioned in the sermon that dealt with this section of Philippians?

E. **For Further Discussion, look at Philippians 2: 19-30.** Paul speaks of sending both Timothy and Epaphroditus, his partners in ministry, to the Philippian church. He is proud of the ministry of Timothy and he will be an encouragement to them, and to Paul himself. Epaphroditus like Paul has suffered for the sake of the Gospel too, almost dying of some sickness, but is now well again, and Paul will send him too back to the Philippians. **What does it mean to know that we, like Paul, have ‘partners’ in the ministry that encourage us?**

F. Once again, the theme of this series is lifted up in the last sentence of Chapter 2: **“Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord.”** What is Paul’s source for “Rejoicing in the Lord” from this week’s study?

G. **Wrap-Up**

Thank the facilitator of your group for this discussion and identify who will lead next week’s discussion and where your group will meet. Close your time together in prayer.