

Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
WISHING AND HOPING THE BEST

Philippians 1:3-11

Jason Fox - October 2, 2016



INTRODUCTION

As Christians, we pray for others—for their success, their well-being and for them to find the peace in Christ that passes understanding. Philippians 1:3-6 says, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy . . . being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." We want what is best for our friends and associates.

Also, we know God is perfect and His plans are perfect. "But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever." (Psalm 33:11 NIV) God has it covered! His plan is impeccable—it always has been and always will be.

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. What one or two pieces of advice would you offer to an 18-year-old leaving home for the first time?
2. Who in your life invested time and energy in you? Tell us about them. How has your life been enriched because they chose to pour into you?

EVALUATE IT

1. Paul said he prayed with joy because of the partnership of the Philippian church. What does it mean to be a partner in the Gospel? What does that look like in 2016? Is it any different?
2. Read Philippians 1:6. How does this verse provide a picture of these theological terms... justification, sanctification and glorification?
3. How does God's definition of love differ from our society's definition of it? How can love grow in knowledge and wisdom?
4. How does a wise love lead to our becoming pure and blameless? How does being pure and blameless make us a better partner in the Gospel?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Is Jesus above you, behind you, before you and strengthening you? What needs to change? What cracks are you filling with wax?
2. How are you currently a partner in the Gospel? Where do you need increase your involvement?

ILLUSTRATION

IF I belittle those whom I am called to serve, talk of their weak points in contrast perhaps with what I think of as my strong points; if I adopt a superior attitude, forgetting "Who made thee to differ? and what hast thou that thou hast not received?" then I know nothing of Calvary love.

IF I take offense easily, if I am content to continue in a cool unfriendliness, though friendship be possible, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

IF I feel bitterly towards those who condemn me, as it seems to me, unjustly, forgetting that if they knew me as I know myself, they would condemn me much more, then I know nothing of Calvary love.

- Amy Carmichael, If



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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