



Week 10  
Discipleship Study  
Questions



# Philippians

We live in a country that is divided by social and political issues. All around us is the evidence of division – in our families, our country, our culture, and even the church. How are God's people supposed to live in these tension-filled times? The letter of Paul to the church in Philippi provides answers and gives direction. The Philippian church existed in its own hotbed of cultural and political tension. Paul encouraged them to lean into the tension with a specific mindset of Jesus, who humbled himself by consider the needs of others before his own. If we adopt this same mindset of humility as God's people, we can ease the tension and fight for unity in the midst of division. Whose thinking and way of life should we follow? Paul makes the case for it to be Jesus – and we need Him now more than ever.

## **Read the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Read the passage from two or three different translations.

*Group:* Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

## **Speak the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

*Group:* Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

## **Understand the Scripture:**

*Individual or Group:* Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

## **Dig Deeper into the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

*Group:* Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

# Small Group Guidelines

## **This is a Safe Group**

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

## **No Crosstalk**

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

## **Listen**

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

## **No Rescuing or Fixing**

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

## **Use "I" Statements**

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

## **Don't Over-Talk**

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

## **Fight for Relationship**

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

## Week 10

**Background:** Chapter 3 of Philippians ends with Paul encouraging the young church to press on toward what is ahead, reminding them they are citizens of heaven who can look forward to Christ's return and the transformation of our bodies out of sin and decay and into glory. Paul now transitions into encouragement for these believers as they navigate living in a world of conflict.

**Read:** *Philippians 4:1-7*

### **Discovery Questions:**

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

### **Digging Deeper:**

Why is it so important to Paul that Euodia and Syntyche resolve their differences? What does this teach us about how we should handle conflict?

Why do you think Paul is so serious about showing our "reasonableness" or "gentleness" and "being anxious for nothing"? Why would he mention this right after talking about Euodia and Syntyche?

How does coming to God in prayer and praise help reduce anxiety? How can we encourage each other to choose prayer over worry?

Why is the peace that a Christian has different from the peace that a non-Christian experiences?

What do our hearts and minds need to be guarded or protected from?

### **End this time with a prayer.**

*Heavenly Father, we are so blessed by Your words for us. In a world that works so hard to produce anxiety in us, you give us the remedy. You are the remedy. You give us peace that surpasses all understanding. Give us a heart for unity with our fellow believers, and give us a heart that rejoices no matter the circumstances. In Jesus' name, Amen.*