

Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

As Paul continues his letter of encouragement to the Philippian church, it is important that we reflect on how Paul has brought us to our current position in the text (Phil 1:19-30). Writing from a position of absolute humility in a prison cell, Paul begins his letter with thanksgiving, commending the Philippians in their faithful partnership with him as partakers in grace. He then gives assurance to the advancement of the gospel with his imprisonment and how it has served to embolden those around him to speak the word without fear.

After contemplation of his future deliverance (in life or death), Paul is now ready to address our citizenship. In Phil 1:27, Paul states, only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ. What “manner of life” is he speaking about? This phrase can also be translated “only behave as citizens worthy of the gospel” (see also Phil 3:20). Being a newly acquired Roman colony, the Philippians showed great pride in their new Roman citizenship. Paul appeals to this affection by reminding them that their true citizenship lies in heaven.

Let the idea of our heavenly citizenship guide our discussion as we move through Philippians 1:19-30.

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- Read Philippians 1:19-30 together. What are your initial thoughts about this text? Is there anything you see now that you had not noticed previously?
- Have you ever had to make an extremely difficult decision in life? How did you come to your decision? Who did you lean on for wisdom/help?
- Paul seems to provide two options for his deliverance; live and continue a life of imprisonment or die and be with Christ. How does Paul navigate this internal conflict and how does he reach his conclusion as to which option he must choose? How does Paul’s understanding of heavenly citizenship help him with this decision?
- Life can be terribly tragic and difficult to navigate. How does a heavenly citizenship help God’s children make decisions in this life; this “light momentary affliction” (2 Cor 4:17-18)?

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are **standing** firm in *one spirit*, with *one mind* **striving** *side by side* for the faith of the gospel and **not frightened** in anything by your opponents. - Philippians 1:27-28a

- Paul describes a life worth living in Phil 1:27-28. Which words define this life worth living? Why?
- When considering your life, do you view it as a life worth living? Does it reflect a heavenly citizenship? If not, what must be done to change the trajectory of your current path?



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- Paul does not paint a picture of isolationism for the Philippians. What phrases in particular affirm the purpose of Christian community in this text? In what ways does your LifeGroup embody this verse? What could your LifeGroup do to better embody this verse?
- When you think about striving, what comes to mind? Do you believe your motivations to strive align with Paul's?
- It is important to be able to read scripture, seek understanding, and put into words what you have read. In an effort to internalize what we have read. Who would be willing to summarize Philippians chapter one in their own words?

How I must obey Christ...

- Examine yourself. As a result of this study, identify a specific area in which you need to obey Christ this week.
- How can Jesus redeem this area? How has He proven that in Scripture?
- Who will keep you accountable to this commitment this week?

Pray Together

Read and Pray through Philippians 2:1-10.



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