

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

In 1898, the 12 original members of Warren Baptist Church began meeting: first in a home, then in a log blacksmith shop with a dirt floor, then in various temporary locations. Finally a permanent building was built. That building no longer exists, but Warren continues to be a strong place of worship, teaching and service with more than 2,000 attenders, five different worship venues and the Warren A Way of Life television broadcast reaching more than 600,000 homes.

Southern hospitality. Generosity. Strong Bible Teaching. A Passion for making disciples and multiplying disciple-makers. This has been the heart of Warren from the very beginning and is behind all we do...from the Family Life Center's fitness and sports programs focusing on the health of the "whole person" to our on-going involvement in Boston, Madagascar, Ecuador, South Africa and Swaziland. From its very beginning, over 100 years ago, Warren has existed and will continue to exist for the cause and call of Christ.

We now enter our 120th year as a church! As we expectantly look toward our future, how does the Body of Christ remain committed to our Lord and to His mission?

Discuss Together

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

- How does God measure a disciple's faithfulness?

- In Philippians 2, Paul shares what it looks like to be united with others in living a life that demonstrates the humility of Christ. In doing so, Paul says they will shine as "lights in the world". Two examples of people who shine as lights are Timothy and Epaphroditus. Read Philippians 2:19-30 and share what distinguishes these two men from others Paul has encountered. How would these characteristics and disciplines help the church remain committed Christ's mission?

- Paul makes a condemning statement of some that he has encountered and perhaps even shared in ministry. In comparing these individuals with faithful Timothy, Paul says, "For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 2:21) What does it mean to "seek your own interests" rather than those of Christ? Share some examples from your own life where you have sought your own interests rather than those of Christ. How did God reveal that you were out of alignment with His interests? Discuss how you might discern whether or not a personal passion aligns with the interests of Christ.



- In Philippians 3, Paul describes how we are saved through “the righteousness from God that depends on faith” (3:9). He contrasts those who boast in themselves and their temporal badges of honor with those whose minds have been renewed by knowing Christ as Lord. Identify some differences that exist in these two groups. Why is Christ’s resurrection significant to an individual Christian’s perseverance as a believer? How does knowing the power of Christ’s resurrection help the church remain committed to His mission?
- Read Philippians 3:12-14. Discuss how a disciple of Christ realigns himself or herself to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. How can a church realign herself to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?
- As Warren seeks to live faithfully committed to the mission of God, what points of doctrine and/or practice are non-negotiable (true for all churches at all times)? Why are these non-negotiable?
- As Warren seeks to live faithfully committed to the mission of God, identify some areas in which churches can evolve based on cultural context and/or congregational convictions? Share examples of how you have seen churches thrive upon making these shifts.
- Discuss the changing cultural context of the CSRA. Brainstorm some areas that Warren may need to evolve in order to live faithfully committed to the mission of God.

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 do you specifically need to obey Christ in this area 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 2:21.

