

“Joy In The Everyday: Drop The Discord”

Growth Group Guide

October 18, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

Discordant notes in music, or sirens on an otherwise peaceful afternoon, remind us that sometimes our lives and relationships get disjointed. They can feel all sorts of unsettled. Remember a time when God really helped bring peace to a relationship you have or had. What was that like? What did you learn? How did you grow?

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Give God praise that He is our source for every conflict and peaceful resolve.

“We love, because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19...

Father, I thank You for the people in my life who seem to bring more pain than joy, for I believe You have let our paths cross for important reasons. Thank you for the good things You want to do in my life through the things that bother me (their irritating habits? moodiness? demands? insensitivity?...). I’m grateful that You are with me, to meet my needs when others—even those close to me—fail to do so. I’m so glad that You are within me, working to make me...—more patient, more gentle, more loving—through the very things I dislike. ...Thank You for Your Spirit who empowers me, so that I can do them good, delight in You, and commit my way to You, resting in You as You unfold Your good purposes in these relationships...” (Myers, Ruth; Myers, Warren. 31 Days of Praise. Kindle. Day 20.)

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. Could you relate to the fictitious potluck kerfuffle example in the sermon? How does it help you get into the frame of mind to understand the conflict the Philippians were having at their church?
2. Having put yourself in their shoes, **read Philippians 4:2-3**. How do you see these verses differently placing yourself in their situation?
3. How do you think Paul and the church felt having those they loved and worked alongside in the Gospel in a major dispute, especially with the external pressures they had? What might we learn about how situations like this affect the life within the Christian community?
4. What do you think of how Paul handles this disagreement (i.e., how he makes a personal request, doesn’t recount details, doesn’t choose sides). How do you think this helped? What can we learn from him?
5. If this had been an issue of doctrine (Christian teachings), Paul would have corrected those faulty beliefs. Instead, it appears this conflict was from interpersonal issues. Paul tends to make belief issues primary, interpersonal issues secondary. What do we usually tend to make primary? What can we learn from Paul?

6. Paul doesn’t give these loved ladies conflict resolution tips, but encourages them to remember what they have in Jesus: His very mind! That’s different. How does this approach catch your attention?
7. **Read Philippians 2:5-11 and Galatians 3:38**. How do these fit with what Paul is asking of these ladies?
8. We have the mind of Jesus, but we can choose to walk after the flesh. This is how conflicts occur. How does knowing that conflicts can occur because we live out of our flesh, not from being right or wrong, change how you see disagreements? How is this good to know?
9. Paul knew all he needed to tell his sisters-in-Christ was “align your minds with Jesus’ mind.” When alignment with Him occurs, He works in people to resolve things. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
10. Paul’s approach was to call these sisters-in-Christ to a higher way of living vs. correcting what they were doing wrong. Which approach would you be more likely to respond to? Why do you think that is? Why is this important for us to learn for ourselves and others?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Conflicts resolve when we align our minds with the one we share in Jesus.** So, what if you find yourself in a conflict? Brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus is the way through. Our part is having the willingness to align ourselves with and depend on Him. If He leads you to bring your loving honesty, forgiveness, or other relational work, it’s all worth it to live in harmony and enjoy Jesus together. Talk to God about the conflict your in today. May the peace of God go before, behind, all around, and within you!

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

Nepal has been in the news recently due to the catastrophic flooding in August and now this week, October 11, as well. Our missionary in Nepal has been busy since August giving out school supplies to 600 children in the areas affected. While visiting with children, he has been able to tell them about Jesus! He has also distributed large amounts of relief supplies to people in the affected areas. Pray for his safety and strength, inside and out, and for his family. Pray for those who continue to be affected by the floods. May the Good News be welcomed by those struggling to make sense of life, the losses, and living in the midst of areas destroyed, damaged, or at further future risk. Pray the church is effective in all they do and share and for their protection in all things.

Colossians 1:9b-12 ESV. “...may [he/they] be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified [him/them] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

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