

# PHILIPPIANS

## A Virtual Community Group Guide

When you are in a position of disorientation, you need a fixed point of reference in order to reorient yourself. Otherwise you will spin in circles. The writers of the Bible over and over point to Jesus as our unchanging point of reference. They also suggest that pursuing Jesus is not something we're meant to do alone.

Therefore, we are calling all our communities at Hosanna to step with us into intentionally connecting and engaging a posture of reorientation to Jesus together. To help us with this, we will study the letter to the Philippians.

### WHY PHILIPPIANS?

We've chosen the book of Philippians because it is a letter written by the Apostle Paul while he was quarantined in a Roman prison. From a place of confinement and uncertainty, Paul writes to his dear friends and grants them perspective about the great joy--even in hard times--in knowing Christ. He sums it up in his call to "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (4:4). We believe that through the letter to the Philippians, that God has a word of hope, perspective and joy for us as His church. (For a short overview of Philippians watch the short Bible Project Video on Philippians)

### A SIMPLE STUDY PLAN

WEEK 1: Philippians 1:1-11

WEEK 2: Philippians 1:12-26

WEEK 3: Philippians 1:27-2:11

WEEK 4: Philippians 2:12-3:1

WEEK 5: Philippians 3:2-16

WEEK 6: Philippians 3:17-4:1

WEEK 7: Philippians 4:2-9

WEEK 8: Philippians 4:10-23

### A SIMPLE METHOD

We've chosen a simple method called Discovery Bible Study Method that is perfect for virtual gatherings. It has been used around the world. It enables people to read the Bible and discover what it has to say to them. Simple, memorable questions allow participants to understand the character of God, encourage them to respond to what they are learning and help them to share it with others.



**HOSANNA**  
CHURCH

# A SIMPLE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY GROUP FORMAT

This simple format should only take about 60-75 minutes, which is perfect for virtual gathering.

**QUICK CHECK IN:** How is everyone doing in general?

## **LOOK UP:** Loving God

Read the passage together. Then ask the first two core questions:

- What does this passage say about God? (Discuss)
  
- In this passage or story, what is God (Father, Son or Spirit) doing? (Discuss)

Then, have another person read the passage again. Next, ask the second two core questions:

- What does this passage or story say about people? What does it say about who I am?
  
- In light of this passage, how should I live? (Have each person identify what God is saying to them and how they will respond to that prompting.)

## **JUMP IN:** Loving One Another

How can we care for & support one another during the Coronavirus? (Remember that the virus will cause people to get sick, but many people might be struggling vocationally, relationally, financially and emotionally. We want to engage with all of this.)

## **MOVE OUT:** Loving Our Neighbor

How are the seniors or other vulnerable people on each of our individual blocks doing? How can we/you serve them?

How are the seniors or other people you're relationally connected to doing? How can we/you serve them?

Are there any immediate wider initiatives in our neighborhood or city happening that we need to be aware of and engage in?

## **TIME OF PRAYER**

As you pray, connect what you learned from Philipians to the needs in your group and among your neighbors.



# FOR LEADERS: UNDERSTANDING THE 4 CORE QUESTIONS

The heart of the Bible Discovery Method revolves around four, simple, memorable questions. Below you'll find some explanation about each question that will help you as you facilitate.

## 1. WHO IS GOD?

The Bible is not primarily a story about man. It is a story about God and his work in the world. As you step into the passage, look for what it reveals about the nature and character of God. Just like in any relationship, intimacy deepens the more you get to know the other person.

At times, the passage will say this directly. For instance, Deuteronomy 33:27 says eternal God is a dwelling place. This tells us that God is both eternal and that God is a home or a refuge.

In other passages, God's character is revealed more indirectly through His actions, commands, and promises. For instance, John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son...". God's actions of giving his son reveals to us that God is generous.

## 2. WHAT HAS HE DONE (THROUGH CHRIST)?

The next step is to look for God's actions. Look in the passage for what God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) has done, is doing or will do in the future?

From start to finish the Bible points to Jesus Christ. Take note that in the Old Testament characters like Kings, Prophets, and Priests as well as systems like the law, tabernacle and sacrifices all point to Christ's future work.

Often, the main character of any story is Jesus. Often, the flawed human heroes of the Bible point to something about who Jesus is perfectly. Jesus is the better Adam, Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Job, David, Esther, Jonah, etc.

## 3. WHO AM I / WHO ARE WE?

A third thing we want to keep our eyes open for in the passage is what it says about mankind. Specifically, what does it say about those who are united by faith to Christ?

Again, some passages will make the answer to this question explicit. In other passages you'll have to deduce what the passage says about God and what He's done.

For instance, in Colossians 1:16, the apostle Paul writes "all things were created by Him and for Him". If God is Creator then we can conclude we are created. We are also made for Him or to be in relationship with Him.

## 4. WHAT WILL I / WE DO?

Finally, in light of who God is, what he's done and who we are in Christ, look to see what the passage reveals about how we are to live.

In stories, you may see this revealed in an example to follow (or avoid). In other passages, it will be spelled out clearly in the form of a command.

This question calls us to put feet to our faith as we walk it out in our everyday relationships with God and those he puts in our path. In fact, instead of stating it as a question, state it as a declarative statement: "Therefore, because of this truth, I will..."

