

Small Group Guide: Living Out the Gospel

Series: Living Out the Gospel

Text: Philippians 1:1-2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Read Philippians 1:1-2 as a group

1. **Slaves of Christ:** Paul and Timothy identified themselves as "slaves of Jesus Christ." Why do you think Paul chose this description rather than leading with his title as an apostle?
2. What does it tell us about his relationship with the Philippian church? How comfortable are you with thinking of yourself as a "slave" of Jesus? How does American culture's emphasis on autonomy and freedom conflict with this biblical identity?
3. What does it practically look like to live as someone who "completely belongs to Jesus" in your daily life—at work, at home, in your relationships?
4. Paul addresses the letter to "the saints." How does understanding that every Christian is a "saint" (set apart and holy in Christ) change how you view yourself and other believers?
7. **Read Philippians 4:15-18 which reveals the reason Paul wrote Philippians:** The Philippian church gave generously despite their "extreme poverty" (2 Corinthians 8:2). What does their example teach us about the relationship between faith and generosity?
8. **Heart Posture:** Pastor Brandon said, "Giving is not ultimately about the amount, but about the heart." What are some heart issues that can prevent us from being generous? How does the gospel address these?
9. **Personal Challenge:** Have you ever experienced God's faithfulness when you gave sacrificially? Or what holds you back from trusting God with your finances?
10. **Living Out the Gospel:** The sermon emphasized that "the gospel is NOT just for non-Christians, it is for Christians as well." Why do Christians need the gospel every day? How can we "swim deeper" into the gospel?
11. **Philippians 1:21:** "For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." What would it look like for this to be the echo of your life? What competes with Christ for the center of your life?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **We are slaves of Christ** – True Christian freedom comes through complete surrender to Jesus as our loving Master.
- **All believers are saints** – Our holiness is not based on our achievements but on Christ's righteousness given to us.
- **Generosity flows from the gospel** – When we grasp what God has given us in Christ, we can give generously regardless of our circumstances.
- **The gospel is for daily living** – Christians need to continually grow deeper in understanding and applying the gospel to every area of life.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge: Choose one or more of the following to put into practice:

- **Surrender Assessment:** Take time this week to pray through areas of your life where you're holding back from complete surrender to Christ. Write down one specific area where you need to live more fully as His "slave."
- **Gospel Meditation:** Each morning, spend 5 minutes reflecting on one aspect of the gospel (forgiveness, new life, adoption, etc.) and ask God how that truth should shape your day.
- **Generosity Step:** Prayerfully ask God what He would have you give financially. If you don't currently give regularly, consider setting aside a percentage of your income to give back to the Lord.
- **Gratitude Letter:** Following Paul's example of thanking the Philippians, write a note of thanks to someone who has invested in your spiritual life.
- **Memorize Philippians 1:21:** Commit this verse to memory and reflect on what it means for Christ to be the center of your life.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Praise God for His transforming power through the gospel
- Thank Jesus for making us His own and calling us saints
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live as true slaves of Christ
- Pray for our church leaders (elders and those serving)
- Request God's help in growing deeper in the gospel throughout this series
- Pray for generous hearts that reflect God's generosity to us