

Small Group Study Spring Semester Week One

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

1. How was your Easter this year? How was it different from your usual Easter traditions as a family? Were you able to meet together in a creative way?
2. What show(s) are you currently watching on Netflix (or other streaming services)? If you aren't watching anything, what's the best show or movie you've seen this year?

Passage and Discussion

Read Philippians 4:8-9

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) On Sunday, we heard that Christians think (or should think) differently than the world. Read **1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16, 3:18-23**. According to these passages, discuss how or why the thought life of a Christian is (or should be) different than how others think.
- c) First, the Apostle Paul creates a list of things that we should think about ("whatever is true, noble, right", etc.). As you read this list, which of these things is easiest for you to keep in your thoughts? Which of these is the hardest to maintain in our thought life?
- d) As Cam taught, we cannot simply 'hope' that these thoughts come to us. Rather, we must make an effort to intentionally bring these thoughts to our minds. What are a few examples of practices that we can use to "think about such things"?
- e) What are a few strategies that you have used in the past to maintain a healthy thought life? For example, have you ever memorized passages of Scripture? How did this practice help you "think about such things"?
- f) As a group, spend a few minutes discussing practical ways that you can make time to 'clean out the inside' of our minds this week. How will our passage affect how you spend your time with God this week? How can you keep each other accountable as a Small Group?
- g) Paul reminds the Philippian church that their thoughts and actions are connected. Cam referred to this as 'GIGO': 'garbage in, garbage out'. What do you think is the connection between our thoughts and our actions? How have you seen this connection reveal itself in your own life?

- h) Finally, Paul teaches that when we engage in i) right thinking, and ii) right living, then “the God of peace will be with us”. What do you think is the connection between our thoughts/actions and our ability to experience God’s presence?
- i) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) Spend time reflecting on the words you speak this week, and how they are connected to your thoughts - if you find yourself regularly saying impure, cynical, or selfish words, reflect on how those words are likely connected to your thought life.
- b) Spend a few minutes in prayer each day, and ask God to help you “renew your mind” (Romans 12:2) to think about the things that Paul describes in this passage.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to ‘check-in’ about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) Pray that God would show each person how this season can be used as a time to grow in our relationship with Christ, especially in our thoughts/actions.

Announcements / Service Opportunities

a) Virtual Prayer Meeting

Join us this **Tuesday, April 21** at 8:00pm for an Elder-led virtual prayer meeting. Join us at the Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/5443365276>