

Small Group Study Winter Semester Week Five:

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)

- a) Are you a “glass-half-empty” (pessimist) or “glass-half-full” (optimist) type of person? Check with your group to see if they agree with you. 😊
- b) Who is the coolest Aunt or Uncle you had growing up? What made them so great?

Passage and Discussion

Read **Philippians 1:12-26**

- a) What stands out to you, upon first glance, about this passage? How does Paul's attitude differ from how yours may be in a similar situation?
- b) C.S. Lewis once remarked, “If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.” Discuss this quote – do you agree? Why do you think this would be so?
- c) How often do you spend thinking about heaven or what is to come? How do you think your actions and attitudes would change, if you spent more time focused on eternity?
- d) Can you think of a time in your life where God used a negative circumstance for your good and for His own glory? Share the circumstances with the group. Does remembering stories like this impact your ability to trust him in the future?
- e) Why do you think it is so easy to forget the ‘WHY’ and focus on the ‘WHAT’S’ all around us? How does fixing our eyes on our *purpose* as Christians, change our attitudes and actions within our current circumstances?
- f) Read **Psalm 13**. Notice how David is able to trust in God, even in the midst of difficulty and the unknown. What is it that allows David to come to this conclusion? Do you find it hard to move from the first few verses to David's conclusion, in your own life?
- g) If an outsider looked at your life and re-wrote Paul's words (in **v21**) about *you*, based on what they saw in your life, what would they fill these blanks with: To (your name), to live is _____ and to die is _____?
- h) What would you say our culture fills these blanks with? Do your blanks look much different than the culture around us that doesn't know Christ?
- i) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

***Note:** Please encourage your group to come next Sunday to hear Dr. Christopher Yuan and his parents' testimony of transformation. Christopher will articulate a biblical view of sexuality through the narrative of his personal transformation from an agnostic gay man to born-again believer and a professor at Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Yuan's parents, Dr. Leon and Angela, will talk about their own faith journeys and how

they persevered through the years with their prodigal son. Their amazing story, told from the perspectives of a father, a mother, and a son, offers hope for anyone going through the trials of life.

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) Take some time to pray and thank God (yes, thank Him) for the difficulties you find yourself up against right now. Ask Him to be glorified in these circumstances and to help you see these trials as an opportunity to grow and let Him work.
- b) Make a list of the things you do currently. Think about how you can bring glory to God through each of those things. Make a plan to intentionally approach these things to that end.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) Pray for our missions teams on the field right now – the LCS Guatemala team and the GMBC Kenya team. Pray that God would use them to bless the communities in Tactic and Chembulet, and that he would work in our team member's lives as well.
- b) Pray that God would give your group His perspective in whatever circumstances you find yourselves. Take the time to thank God for where you are right now – whether you feel that it is a good spot to be or not.

Announcements / Service Opportunities

a) IF: Gathering – Women's Weekend

February 28-29. IF: Gathering is coming to Winnipeg and we want you to be a part of it. The Women's Ministry at Grant Memorial Church is excited to be an IF: Local site for the 2020 IF: Gathering. IF is an annual event that gathers women across generations, denominations, and cultures, who are exploring or have a relationship with Jesus Christ. We will be viewing/discussing sessions from the 2020 IF: Gathering. Cost is \$50 and includes meals.

b) Christianity Explored

Wednesdays starting **February 12.** Christianity Explored is an 8-week course for those who want to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening atmosphere. We meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm and supper is provided. It is a great place to meet others and ask questions. Childcare is provided.

c) Men's Retreat

Friday, March 13 to Sunday, March 15 at Camp Manitou (Headingley). Men of all ages - join us as we spend the weekend together, playing games, skating, eating (lots of) food, enjoying the great outdoors, and digging into God's Word together, as guest speaker, CMU Professor Pierre Gilbert challenges us to 'Choose the Good' in our lives. Cost: \$135. Contact Dom Gibson (dgibson@grantmemorial.mb.ca) for more information, or register online at www.grantmemorial.ca.