

## Small Group Study Winter Semester Week Seven:

*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) In honour of the NHL trade deadline this week (I know some people don't care), what is one thing in *your life* that you would trade for something else, if you could? Try not to say someone in the room.
- b) If you could get away for one week right now (all expenses paid), where would you go?

### Passage and Discussion

#### Read *Philippians 1:27-30*

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage?
- b) What do you think Paul means when he says "conduct yourselves in a manner *worthy of the gospel*"? Would you say that your life would currently fit this description? How would your daily life change, if you were reminded of this calling regularly?
- c) Paul touches on the call to act this way consistently in **v27**. Is there a place or environment in your life, where it is most difficult to live consistently with the rest of your life? Why do you think that is?
- d) Read **Galatians 5:1, Ephesians 6:13, Philippians 4:1, 2 Thessalonians 2:15** (as a sample). In light of these passages (and our passage today), discuss what you think Paul means by standing firm. Why do you think he mentions this concept in nearly all of his letters?
- e) Do you know anyone who has walked away from the faith, or failed to 'stand firm' when opposition came? What happened? How could they have been protected from wavering? What could have been done to help them stand firm in the faith?
- f) In **v27**, Paul mentions that following Jesus is a deeply communal journey. How is it that community helps us to stand firm through difficult times and persecution? Have you experienced this type of community? When?
- g) Read **Genesis 2:15-25**. God created community so that we could help one another live out our physical and moral calling as Christians. How is it that others help us in this endeavor? How does this passage infer that real community should look like (try to think beyond just the marriage relationship)?
- h) Have you experienced persecution before? What is the most difficult thing that you have needed to endure *because* of your faith in Christ?
- i) Paul starts off **v27** by saying 'whatever happens'. This can be a scary statement. In light of where our culture is headed, what do you think 'whatever' could include in the future? In light of your discussion, would you say that you are willing to stand firm in the face of everything you discussed? Do you have a breaking point, or a line where standing firm would be too hard?

- j) Was there anything else in the message (or the baptisms) on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

### **Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)**

- a) This week it was mentioned that the Bible may one day be labelled as 'hate speech' in Canada. Consider starting a habit of memorizing scripture, so that you still have access to God's Word, even if Bibles are outlawed. Memorize one verse this week.
- b) Think of your answer to question (c). What is one thing that you can do this week, to move towards living the way you ought to, in that environment?

### **Optional Ideas for Prayer Time**

- a) Pray for the church as we begin to face a new reality in Canada. Pray that we would remain faithful and stand firm in the faith, both corporately and individually. Pray for wisdom and discernment for our leaders as we navigate these new waters.
- b) Pray for those you know who have been moved from their faith, or are having trouble standing firm. Pray that God would gently bring them back to Himself. Ask God to bring to mind what you can do to help them stand firm in the faith.

### **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) 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](mailto:dgibson@grantmemorial.mb.ca)) for more information, or register online at [www.grantmemorial.ca](http://www.grantmemorial.ca).