

Small Group Study Winter Semester Week Four:

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) What is one thing that you have tried to teach someone, but has proven to be difficult to teach?
- b) What was your best / worst subject in school? Have you needed to use the skills you struggled with, since you graduated?

Passage and Discussion

Read **Philippians 1:9-11**

- a) What stands out to you, at first glance, about Paul's prayer to the Philippians?
- b) This passage gives us insight into how Paul prays and what he prays for. Think about what you typically pray about when you pray. Compare and contrast your prayers with Paul's. How are they similar? How are they different?
- c) As we studied this week, this prayer is not a series of desires, but is rather *one* prayer that progresses. How does this passage read differently as one prayer, than it would, if this was a bullet list of Paul's desires for the Philippian church?
- d) Read **Isaiah 43:7**; **Romans 11:36**; **1 Cor. 10:31**. This week we talked about the *chief end of man* being to bring glory to God. Is this what you have typically assumed? If not, what would you say (or have you thought) our purpose is? How does knowing that 'bringing God glory' is our highest calling, impact the way that we see things, and the way that we should act?
- e) There is a battle to define love in our culture. It was suggested this week that we can best define love by looking at the life of Christ. When you think about what you know about Jesus, how would you define love? How does this love differ from how culture may currently define it?
- f) Paul talks about discernment in this passage. With so many opinions and ideas so easily accessible in our culture, what tools do you use to *discern* what is right and good? How do you know what to attribute authority to? Is it difficult to sift through all of the information out there?
- g) Read **James 1:22-24** and **4:17**. What are some areas in your life where you *know* what you ought to do, but act in a way that is different? Why do you think it is so difficult to act in accordance to what we know?
- h) In **v10-11**, Paul suggests *both* that we are called to act in a way that is pure and blameless, *and* that living this way is a result of God's work through us. Discuss how these two concepts work together. Do they? How does our obedience and effort mesh with the Spirit's work in our lives?
- 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) As we learned this week, we cannot *act* Biblically, if we don't read the Bible. Plan to spend some time in the word this week. And if you don't already do so, put a plan together to *regularly* read the Bible.
- b) Do some research and make a list of how Jesus lived and loved. Compare your list with how you define love. Think about (and write out) a new definition of love, based on Jesus' love.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) Pray for the children and youth of our church. Pray that God would protect them and help them be able to discern what is right, in a world that is full of untruths.
- b) Pray that God would be glorified in your life and in the lives of your group members.

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.