

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Was there anything from the message today that was particularly helpful? Was there anything you'd like to discuss further?
- 2. Relationships are necessary and painful, a source of sweetness and bitterness in life. Discuss some relationships that have been a source of sweetness. What about bitterness? How has God used both types in your life for his purposes?
- 3. Paul was deserted by Demas. It doesn't seem like the relationship was ever restored. Why should we practice grace in the face of this kind of disappointment? Share a time when this has happened to you. Have you ever been the disappointment?
- 4. Sometimes the reason why people disappoint us is complicated. Be careful you're not being simplistic or unforgiving. Share a time when you disappointed someone without malicious intent. Has someone ever done this to you? Discuss.
- 5. The reason we can be gracious with people who disappoint us is because of our relationship with the One who never disappoints: the Lord Jesus Christ. How does your relationship with Christ enable you to give grace and maintain hope?
- 6. Was there ever a time when you felt all alone only to later be reminded that "in Christ" you are never alone. When has the "Lord stood by you & strengthened you?"
- 7. How are you currently growing in your knowledge of and love for the Lord?
- 8. In light of today's message, what are some practical changes you will make to your relationship with God? How will you go about implementing those changes? How can we help you/pray for you so that you're successful in this step of obedience?