



GROUP GUIDE – *Standing on the Promises* - Wk 1

OPENER and SNACK: 15 minutes

Name a promise that has shaped your life. It can be any promise that you believe, made by anyone whom you trust, that has empowered your life in some way. Why is that promise so powerful for you? How different do you think your life would be without that promise?

PRAY BRIEFLY FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE READING: Have everyone open their Bibles. Have one person read Philippians 2:5-11 and another read Philippians 4:10-23. Read slowly enough for everyone to enjoy. Discuss the questions that follow.

Questions: 50 minutes

1. In what ways do the Philippians and Epaphroditus “live out the Jesus story” as it is told in Philippians 2:5-11?
2. When Paul wrote verses 11-18 of Chapter 4, what were his circumstances at that time?
3. In light of those circumstances, how can he say “I am content” and “I am fully supplied?” What made it possible for Paul to be content in such circumstances?
4. When you think of God supplying every need of yours, what comes to your mind?
5. Dan Jarrell said that the promise of Philippians 4:19 was “*For those whose sole mission in life is to ‘live out the Jesus story.’*” If that is our sole mission in life, how should that mission redefine our sense of “need?”
6. Dan also said that for practical purposes, standing on this promise means;
 - *We see our lives as reenactments of Jesus’ story.*
 - *We lay aside “our own rights,” giving and serving so that others might know the love of God.*
 - *We obey God’s Word with hope and humility, regardless of difficulty or opposition.*
 - *We press into a relationship with Jesus that is deeply personal and transforming.*
 - *We trust that a life so lived will result in Glory to Jesus and joy for us.*

How does your life measure up to those 5 ideals?

What keeps you from living that way?

What do you “need” in order to live that way?

7. Now, in light of our discussion, what do you think Paul meant when he said “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*”? What do you think he has in mind when he says “*all things*?”

SURRENDER: 10 minutes

Each of you share “one thing you need” in order to live a life that stands on the promise of Philippians 4:19; one place where you need Christ to strengthen you.

CLOSING PRAYER: (10 minutes)Pray for one another in light of what was shared today.