LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

November 15th

1. Standing Firm Together

Paul urges two valued members of the Philippian church to be of the same mind in the Lord, and he invites the rest of the community to help them reconcile. Eric reminds us that following Jesus together will inevitably involve disagreement and friction. What do you think makes it difficult to stay committed to one another when we disagree? How might approaching conflict with the humility and self-giving love of Jesus change the way we respond to people who see things differently?

2. When Joy Looks Like Gentleness

Throughout this series, we've explored the idea that joy isn't something we can simply pursue and capture. It's something that grows as we live in the goodness and love of God. Eric points out that one of the ways this joy becomes visible to others is through our gentleness, even in difficult circumstances. What do you think is the connection between experiencing God's goodness and becoming a gentler person? How might the people around us experience something of Jesus through the way we respond to them?

3. Bringing Our Worries Into God's Presence

Eric challenged the way we sometimes hear Paul's words, "Do not be anxious about anything," as though we're simply supposed to stop worrying. Instead, he described prayer as an invitation to bring our fears and concerns honestly into God's presence, where we can discover what's beneath them and remember that God is with us. When you experience worry or anxiety, what do you naturally tend to do with it? How might prayer look different if, rather than trying to hide or eliminate those feelings, we brought them honestly before God and made room to experience his presence?

4. Paying Attention to What's Good

Paul encourages the Philippians to pay attention to whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. Eric reminds us that God's goodness is at work all around us—not only within the church—and that we need to be intentional about what captures our attention. What do you notice most often drawing your attention throughout an ordinary day? Where have you seen signs of goodness, beauty, grace, or God's restoring work in unexpected places? How might learning to notice those things shape the way we live?

5. Finding Gladness in Every Circumstance

Paul says he has learned to be content whether he has plenty or is in need. Eric suggests that this contentment isn't about giving up or becoming passive, but about discovering that we can continue living into God's purposes regardless of our circumstances. How does that challenge the way we normally think about contentment or a fulfilling life? As we come to the end of Philippians, what might it look like to keep practicing the better way of Jesus—and finding gladness in it—even when life doesn't unfold the way we'd hoped?