LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

October 4th

1. **A Bigger Picture of Salvation**
    a. Jonathan described salvation as something much bigger than a single decision or our eternal destination. It's God's ongoing work of restoring people and ultimately all of creation—and Paul invites us to participate in that work together. How does this bigger picture challenge or expand the way you've understood salvation? What might change if we saw following Jesus as something we're working out together rather than primarily as an individual journey?
2. **The Gift and the Work**
    a. Paul tells the Philippians to "work out your salvation," but he isn't telling them to earn God's love. Jonathan compared this to relationships: love is a gift, but a meaningful relationship still requires intentional investment. How does that distinction help us understand the place of effort, obedience, and spiritual practices in following Jesus? What does it look like to actively participate in something we've already received by grace?
3. **Working With God's Energy**
    a. Jonathan used the image of a cordless drill without its battery to illustrate how easily we can exhaust ourselves trying to accomplish good things through our own strength. Paul reminds us that God works in us both to will and to act. Where do you recognize the tendency to rely on your own energy? What desires, interests, or concerns might God already be stirring in you as part of his work?
4. **The Extraordinary Work of Ordinary People**
    a. Paul describes Epaphroditus as his brother, co-worker, fellow soldier, and minister—even though his contribution might have looked like simply delivering a gift and caring for a friend. What does Paul's appreciation for Epaphroditus tell us about the kinds of people and contributions we should value? Where have you seen that kind of ordinary faithfulness make an extraordinary difference in someone's life or in our community at Grace?
5. **All of Life Is Ministry**
    a. Jonathan challenged the idea that some Christians are called into ministry while everyone else simply supports them. Instead, we're all invited to serve others on behalf of God's kingdom wherever we find ourselves. How might this change the way we think about our work, relationships, and everyday responsibilities? Where might you have opportunities this week to extend grace, cultivate goodness, or participate in God's restoring work?