

Growth Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 6

A Prisoner's Guide-Partnership in Joy

Our Scripture: Philippians 1:1-14

Ice Breaker

Who is the first friend you remember in your life?

Quick review

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. Our study of Philippians is among those New Testament books the Apostle Paul wrote that are known as his "prison Epistles." What does that mean?

Read these scripture passages together. To what other people or faith communities did Paul write from prison?

Philemon 1:10-13

Ephesians 3:1

Colossians 4:18

Philippians 1:12-14

2. Greg said, "the universe we live in is entirely relational."

Read John 1: 1-4 and Read Colossians 1:15-17. How did Paul understand the relationship of Christ to all the universe?

What does it mean that "in him all things hold together?"

Media Mix - Rob Bell and our spiritual universe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7DCF_tNYDc

After watching this video clip read Colossians 3:17. Discuss how everything is connected and affected by our relationship with Jesus.

Bringing It Home

1. Greg said, “sin is not only the cruel things we think, say and do it is also the separation we experience from God and others.” Talk about how this insight changes the way we think about sin.

Why does this insight matter?

2. Read Philippians 1:14. Ironically Paul discovered not only the greatest joy but also courage to face his fears while incarcerated. Describe a difficult time in your life when the meaning and value of your faith became more deeply evident to you.

Prayer Time

Paul was deeply encouraged by his relationship with Christ through the Philippians. Who would you like to encourage this week? Why?

Housekeeping

There is just one more week in our spring series. Where do you worship in the summer? How do you continue to grow in faith?