

**COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE****PEOPLE, PURPOSES AND PARTNERSHIPS ON MISSION**

Philippians 2:19-30

**PRAYER**

Spend time praying together as a CG.

**APPLY // PSALM 32**

Consider practical ways to apply the text of Scripture. Think about implications at the individual and corporate level remembering God's word shapes our beliefs and our behaviors.

1. Read Psalm 32.
2. Review the main idea of this Psalm written by David.
3. This Psalm speaks about the blessing/joy of repentance/confession and forgiveness. Is this typically the way we think of confession and repentance? Why or why not?
4. In verse 4, David speaks of the dangers of hiding our sin. Why is hiding sin destructive spiritually, emotionally, and even physically? How is it God's grace that we feel the effects of our rebellion?
5. In verse 5, David make his confession personal (e.g. "I" and "my").
  - a. Why is it important to make confession specific and personal?
  - b. Why are we often hesitant to take ownership of our sin in a concrete way?
  - c. What are some ways we try to hide our sin?
  - d. How does the gospel free us to not hide our sin?
  - e. How can we ensure Restoration Church is a safe place to confess sin?
6. In verse 8-9, David talks about the importance of gladly following God's ways. How does joyfully obeying God's word lead us into the happy life and help us confess our sins when we fail?

**STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30 (SERMON TEXT FOR FEBRUARY 17)**

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Philippians 1:1-2; 4:14-20.
2. What is the overarching context for the book of Philippians?
  - a. Note: Paul is in prison (1:14), writing to the church in Philippi, a church he planted (cf. Acts 16), thanking them for their support, especially sending Epaphroditus with gifts. Paul wrote Philippians for the sake of unifying the church in the enjoyment and advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Read Philippians 2:19-30.

4. Why does Paul hope to send Timothy to the Philippians?
5. What seems to bring encouragement to Paul?
6. How does Paul talk about Timothy?
7. How is Timothy a model of what Paul has been calling the Philippians to, especially in verses 2:3-4? How does Timothy have the “mind of Christ”?
8. Identify the various ways Paul describes Epaphroditus. Discuss the significance/meaning of each of these.
9. Why is Paul sending Epaphroditus back to the Philippian church? Describe the relationship of Paul, Epaphroditus, and the church at Philippi.
10. What instructions does Paul give the Philippian church in receiving Epaphroditus?
  - a. What does it mean to “receive him in the Lord with all joy”?
  - b. What does it mean to “honor such men”?
11. Paul says tell the Philippians that Epaphroditus completes “what was lacking in your service to me”? What was lacking? Why is this such an important aspect of gospel partnership?
  - a. *NOTE: It appears what was lacking was the Philippians physical presence, which was of grand importance and encouragement to Paul.*
12. How are both Paul and Epaphroditus examples of having the mind of Christ and seeking His interests not their own? How does the gospel inform such a life?
13. General Bible study questions:
  - a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
  - b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
  - c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
  - d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Are there any sins you are willfully hiding? How have you seen God’s grace at work in your life as you repent of sin and enjoy God’s forgiving grace?