

SESSION 1

READ: Acts 9:1-22

FURTHER STUDY: Acts 16

BEFORE THE VIDEO

- * What's one of your favorite ways to spend a day off?
- * What was something you were really into as a kid?
- * What's your favorite dessert?
- * Who or what makes you laugh?

AFTER THE VIDEO

- * Share with the group a time when you have felt pure joy.
- * How would you define the difference between happiness and joy?
- * Paul is anxious to move further west into Macedonia, or Europe. We don't know the reason, but he is prevented by God's Spirit until the timing was right. When have you had to wait on God's timing? How did you respond?
- * Lydia invites Paul and his companions to stay in her home. She is offering practical help and hospitality. How can you put your faith into practical help for someone this week?
- * Imagine how the jailer's life changed the night of the earthquake. How has your life changed since accepting Christ as Lord of your life?
- * Paul and Silas return to Lydia's home after their imprisonment and the church in Philippi continued to grow. It's interesting that, throughout history, when believers are persecuted for their beliefs, the church thrives. But during times of plenty, people often turn from God and become self-dependent. What can we learn from this history lesson?

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 16:30b-31a

*... what must I do to be saved.
Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved.*

SESSION 2

READ: Philippians 1

FURTHER STUDY: Philippians 1:9-10

BEFORE THE VIDEO

- * What was your favorite book or movie as a child?
- * If someone were to play you in a movie who would you choose?
- * What makes you smile?
- * Do you have a favorite Bible verse or verses? What are they?

AFTER THE VIDEO

- * Paul is deeply thankful for the partnership and support the Philippian church has given him. Other than family members, who are you thankful for? Do they know it?
- * Is there anyone you would consider your partner in the gospel as Paul claims in 1:5? If not, who could you partner with to live out your Christian calling?
- * As Paul remembers the Philippians, he prays for them. Do you have a regular pattern (time and place) of prayer? What have you found that works well for you in communicating with God?
- * Paul prays for others regularly and with joy. Consider your own prayers. What do you pray for most often?
- * Who benefits from your prayers, other than you and your immediate family?
- * How can you turn prayer into a blessing for others?

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 1:9-10

*This is my prayer:
that your love may abound more and more
in knowledge and depth of insight,
so that you may be able to discern
what is best and may be pure and blameless.*

SESSION 3

READ: Philippians 1:1-11

FURTHER STUDY: Philippians 1:12-14

BEFORE THE VIDEO

- * What was your favorite cartoon as a kid?
- * What's are the three best apps on your phone?
- * What role did the Bible play in your life growing up?

AFTER THE VIDEO

- * Re-read Philippians 1:12-14. What were some of the positive outcomes to Paul's time in chains?
- * How might God be wanting to work through a bad situation in your life in order to bring you good and Him glory?
- * When has a difficult situation proved to have unforeseen positive benefits in your life?
- * In what areas of your life do you need to completely surrender control to God? (Example: career, tithing, serving, severing an unhealthy relationship, worry, etc.)
- * What holds you back from giving control of these areas to God?

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 1:12b

*...what has happened to me
has served to advance
the gospel.*

SESSION 4

READ: Philippians 2

FURTHER STUDY: Philippians 2:14-15

BEFORE THE VIDEO

- * If you were going to start a business what would it be?
- * How often do you check your phone?
- * What makes you smile?
- * What's the most interesting place you've ever been?

AFTER THE VIDEO

- * As a fun exercise see if the group members can recall all 5 Harvest Church mottos.
- * Go through these individually and ask group members how they are doing with each one. (Members may want to talk about inviting their One, about where they serve, about how the Holy Spirit is convicting them toward life change, and about their habits of prayer, tithing and Bible study,
- * What must it have meant to Paul that Timothy, Silas and Epaphroditus were with him in his distress. Who has been there for you during difficult times in the past?
- * Is there someone that may need you to be there for them now?
- * Ask group members who serve in ministries to share what they do and what they enjoy about that particular ministry. If there are those who do not serve within the church encourage them by helping them find a place to start.
- * How do you react to difficult circumstances in your life?
- * How would you like to react?

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 2:14-15a

*Do everything without complaining or arguing,
so that you may become blameless and pure,
children of God.*

SESSION 5

READ: Philippians 3

FURTHER STUDY: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

BEFORE THE VIDEO

- * What's a goal you're working to achieve right now?
- * What's your favorite season of the year? Why?
- * What's something about yourself that you really like?
- * What's something about yourself that you wish you could change?

AFTER THE VIDEO

- * What accomplishments and goals have you achieved in life?
What sacrifices were required to make those happen?
- * Reread 3:4-9 as a group. Paul says that because of Christ in his life, the values and achievements that were once so important to him are now like rubbish. How does that translate to your life?
- * Paul was a very religious person before meeting Christ.
Discuss as a group the difference in being religious and following Christ.
- * What are some of the benchmarks you see in the lives of mature Christ followers?
- * What are the benchmarks you most need to work on?
- * In Philippians 3:20 Paul tells those who love and follow Jesus that our true citizenship is in heaven. How does that make you feel?
What does it give you the confidence to do?

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 3:13b

One thing I do:

*Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,
I press on toward the goal to win the prize
for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

SESSION 6

READ: Philippians 4

FURTHER STUDY: Philippians 4:7-8

BEFORE THE VIDEO

For Thanksgiving enjoy some turkey trivia questions:

- * What's the red wobbly thing on a turkey's beak called?
- * What are turkey chicks called?
- * Which President gave the first official turkey pardon?
- * What state raises the most turkeys?
- * What was the primary meat of the first Thanksgiving?

AFTER THE VIDEO

- * Have you ever been through a perfect storm season? What happened? How'd you get through it?
- * What does it mean to live in Christ? Is it possible to be a believer and not live in Christ?
- * Paul commends the Philippians for their love of God and their generosity. But he warns them about disunity - not living in harmony with each other. Why is this so important among the family of God?
- * What poses a threat to harmony in the local church?
- * When you encounter conflict how do you typically handle it?
- * Read Philippians 4:8. How can we practice this verse?
- * What destructive thought patterns do you need to eradicate from your thinking? (Envy, jealousy, comparison, bitterness, lust, replaying past hurts, violent thoughts, etc.)
- * The Philippians are known for their generosity. Paul mentions they have been there for him "again and again". Would others consider you generous...with your time, attention, tithe, and gifts?

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 4:6,13

*Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
present your requests before God...
I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.*

TEN HOST TIPS

1. Relax! Now, breathe! You can do this, and we're here to help if you get stuck. Remember, God is with you. Pray up, prepare, and be friendly. You can do this! Hebrews 13:5.
2. Invite. Now invite some more people to join you for this short 4-week journey. You are the key to filling your group. #Foundpeoplefindpeople.
3. Serve a few snacks. Food helps break the ice. Keep it simple and then share this responsibility with your group members.
4. Prepare for your time together. Preview the DVD, write down your thoughts and select questions that you feel will work best in your group. #Growingpeoplechange.
5. Pray for your group members. Follow up with them during the week about the concerns in their lives. Make prayer and reaching out to God a regular part of group life. #Worshipisalifestyle.
6. Maintain a healthy atmosphere. Don't allow anyone, including yourself, to dominate discussion or fall into gossip. Gently redirect when conversation deviates.
7. Be prepared for questions. Questions may arise that you don't feel equipped to handle. Just say, "I don't know. Let me check that out." Then contact groups@harvestchurch4u.org and we will do our best to help.
8. Allow silence. When you ask questions, if there is silence for a moment, don't jump in too quickly to rescue. This may just be a sign that people are thinking about how to respond.
9. Tackle a mission project together! How can you and your group make a difference in the world? Do it! We'd love to hear your stories and see your pictures! #Savedpeopleservepeople.
10. Have Fun! Plan to do something - outside of the group time - together just for fun. It helps build friendships and makes the journey together more fun! #Youcantdolifealone.

P.S. If you'd like to end your group by having communion, please contact groups@harvestchurch4u.org to receive the sacraments of juice and bread that have been consecrated for just this purpose.

