



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Mission

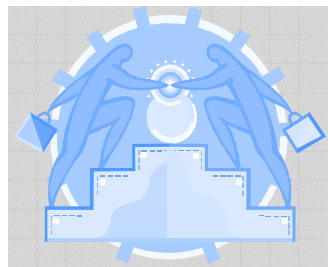
Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. How involved are you right now in trying to share the story of Jesus with others? Why?
2. What do you think is unique about your life story that God could use to reach others?
3. What do you think Colossians 4:5 means when it says “be wise in the way you act towards outsiders”. Think of some specific strategies that you can employ.
4. Talk about some people you know whom you would like to see come to Christ. Take some time to pray for them in your group.
5. As a group what could you consider doing to take the message and ministry of Christ to someone—either near (local ministry) or far (missions)?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

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**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

**40 Days Classes—Locations,
Times, Descriptions**



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

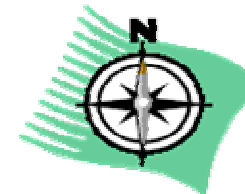
9:00			10:45		
Rm101	40s-50s	Young-Fendley	Rm 101	30s-50s	Bower-Devereaux
Rm 104	40s-50s	Christensen- Hasler	Rm 104	Open	Hixson-Sturgill
Rm 112	30s-40s	Waller-Norwood	Rm 112	Women	Byrum-Gardiner
Rm 201	30s	Hughes-Work	Rm 201	20s	Jones-Norwood
Rm 203	Singles	Knox-Graham	Rm 202	30s	Miller-Butler
Rm 204	30s-40s	Sims-Bentzel	Rm 203	Singles	Reynolds
Rm 205	20s	Hey-Lux	Rm 204	20s	Alexy-Hopkins
Rm 206	40s-50s	McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 205	Open	Regis-Hubbard
Rm 207	40s	Crary-Elswick	Rm 206	30s	Heritier-Sharp
Rm 208	Women	Knox-Anderson	Rm 207	Open	Youngman-Byrum
			Rm 208	Open	Anderson—Robertson
			3rd Fl/Gym	College	Ayres-Getchell-Hopkins

Feb 29, 2004

Enjoy the Rest of Your Life

Discover principles for happy living from the book of Philippians

Celebration Fellowship



Volume 1, Issue 8
February 29, 2004

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Enjoy!

A preview of Philippians 1:1-11

Often, as the server leaves the food at your table he or she will say, “enjoy” - like it is up to you, whether the food is good or bad, to make your dinner an enjoyable experience. Well, life is much the same way; when it throws us those inevitable “curves”, we can choose to respond by enjoying it anyway. The truth is that we are not “trapped” by our circumstances, or by what comes our way; there are principles found in God’s Word that allow us to turn “lemons into lemonade”. Over the next few weeks we will discover these principles

together from the New Testament book of Philippians. As we look at the first eleven verses of chapter one, we discover one way to enjoy life—by valuing relationships and deriving joy from the progress others make. A quick reading of Philippians reveals the deep affection and genuine connection the apostle Paul had with the church at Philippi. This group of believers that began “down by the riverside” (Acts 16) had become a force for Christ in the important Roman city of Philippi, and had become vital partners in the min-



The secret of happiness is found in Christ!

istry of grace in which Paul was engaged. Confident that God would complete His work in them, he prayed for their progress. Even though he was imprisoned, because he valued relationships, Paul was able to “enjoy” his life.

A Look Back—Evangelism—Created for Mission

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

There is a “drive for life” that exists everywhere in creation. Whether it is a plant that pushes its way through the outer crust into the light of day, a pair of lions that fight to the death for a carcass that will sustain their life, or a baby that struggles through the birth canal into the doctor’s waiting arms—all nature is on mission for life. This is true in the spiritual realm; all mankind wants to have true life, and there is no mission greater than helping people gain this life found in Christ. Jesus modeled this mission of leading others into His forever family, and then urged His followers to carry on in His footsteps. This is our fifth purpose, but to do this effectively there are a few things we must understand. First, our mission of evangelism is simply about what we have witnessed. Jesus told His disciples that they were to be His witnesses—not super salesmen, just those who shared their experience of coming to know Christ with

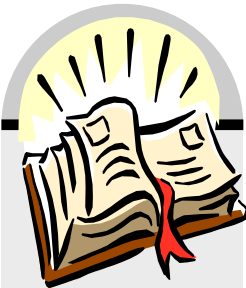
others. People can argue “religion” with us, but they cannot negate our personal experience of coming to faith in Christ. This is the good news that we must share—that, although we are naturally sinful, Jesus came and died for our sins that we might have life forever through a personal relationship with God. The next thing we must understand is where we are to carry out this mission. The answer is simple: with whomever we come into contact. The command to “love our neighbor” covers this if we understand who our neighbor is: anyone around us in need whom we can help. This applies to 3 groups of people, according to Acts 1:8. First, we are to be witnesses to those we love—in Jerusalem and Judea. This region would be “home” to the disciples, and as it applies to us it would be those to whom we are closest. However, we must also share Christ’s love with those we loathe—with even our ene-

mies. Some of the greatest opportunities to express Christ’s love will be to those with whom we are at odds. Finally, we must even be witnesses a long way off. We are to make disciples “of all nations”, and this means we must have the world on our heart for Jesus. We should be motivated to do this because of the great need people have for salvation, the narrowness of the way of salvation—it is only through Jesus—and the compulsion that we have to share this good news. We, who have been transformed by Christ, cannot help but tell others about His incredible grace. Moreover, this, simply, is our method: we tell what has happened to us, and help others experience the same thing. When we are fulfilling the purposes of worship, fellowship, ministry and discipleship, the transformation that occurs in our lives provides a convincing “case for faith”. Sharing this is the 5th purpose for which we were created.

Reading Guide for Philippians 1:1-11

Begin each day asking God for understanding, and for how to apply what you discover to your life that day.

1. Read Philippians 1:1-2. Who wrote this letter, and how did they identify themselves (v1)? Using Galatians 1:13-16 and Acts 16:1-3 describe their roles. Is there an example we can follow from the way Paul starts this letter?
2. To whom was this letter written (v1)? How are they described (v1) and what do you think this means? What 2 special groups are addressed, and why do you think Paul set them apart (see 1 Timothy 3:1-13)?
3. Look at Philippians 1:2. What 2 things does Paul ask for the Philippian church? What is their source, and what do these 2 concepts mean to you?
4. Read Philippians 1:3-8. How would you describe Paul's attitude towards the Philippians? What are some things that resulted from this attitude (v3, 4)? How can we apply this?
5. How had the Philippians connected with Paul (v5, 7), and how can we do this same thing today?
6. What confidence did Paul have about the Philippians (v6), and why was he so confident? What hope can this give to us as believers?
7. In what 3 areas had the Philippians supported Paul (v7—see also 2:25, 4:15-16)? What had God given to Paul to keep him going in these 3 areas (v7), and why was that so important? How did the Philippians share in this as well?
8. From v7 what 2 things was Paul responsible for in relation to the gospel, and how would you define these? How should we do the same 2 things today?
9. How deep was Paul's love for the Philippians (v8), and where did this come from (v8)? How is it possible for us to have the same kind of love for one another?
10. Read Philippians 1:9-11. What did Paul pray for the Philippians (v9) and what do you think the relationship is between love and real knowledge and discernment (insight)?
11. What is the short term result of real knowledge and discernment (v10a), and what does this result in (v11)? What is the long-term outcome of these 2 things (v10b)?
12. How is it possible to be filled with "the fruit of righteousness" (v11b), and what is its purpose (v11c)?



"It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny."

Table Discussion Questions for Mar 7

Connect—Big Group

1. Take some time to let everyone introduce themselves to the group. Talk about what everyone wants to get from being in an Adult Bible Fellowship, and what they think they need to do to get the most out of it.
2. Since the letter to the Philippians expresses Paul's joy while being in jail, it gives us some great principles for enjoying life, no matter how bad our circumstances. Share with the group some things that have helped you get through bad circumstances in the past.

Grow—Table Groups

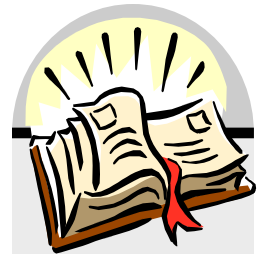
1. From Philippians 1:1 and 1:5 how did Paul view himself? How did this help him maintain a good attitude in difficult times and how can we develop that kind of mindset?
2. What do the words "grace" and "peace" mean to you, and why are they so important for enjoying life, no matter what? How do you get them?
3. According to Phil 1:3-4 what did Paul constantly do, and what was his attitude as he did it? Talk about how this approach would help us when we face problems, and how we can actually practice this.
4. What do vss 5-6 teach us about our spiritual life—how it started, how it continues, and how it will end? Why should this give us hope, and how does it apply to us when we "fail" in our walk with God?
5. In following Paul's example in v7 what are the 2 things we should be doing with the gospel (good news) we have received? Give some illustrations about how we could do this in everyday life.
6. How would you describe Paul's love for the Philippians (v8), and what are some practical ways we can cultivate this kind of love for one another?
7. What knowledge and insight do we need for our love for God and others to grow? Where does this come from, and what does it result in according to vss 9-11?
8. In what way does "approving the things that are excellent" keep us "sincere and blameless" (literally "without offense"), and how does this help us truly express love?

Summary—Big Group

1. From the discussions at everyone's tables, summarize principles for cultivating relationships that enable us to enjoy life no matter what the circumstances. Write these on the board.
2. If time allows discuss any other questions that anyone has.

Worship—Big Group/Table Groups

1. Share prayer requests with the big group.
2. Pray at your tables for a focus on cultivating genuine love in your relationships this week, and pray for the requests at your table.



Memory Verse

"Everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him."
Colossians 1:16b (Msg)