



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Enjoy the People in Your Life (Phil 1:1-11)

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. When you think about the people in your life, do they energize or de-energize you? Why do you think that is?
2. The church at Philippi began because God diverted Paul to that area. How do you feel when God stops you and leads you a different direction? Have you considered it might be to form certain relationships that He can use in a special way? What about now?
3. How does partnering with others in advancing the Lord's work help your attitude? What are some ways you can do this as a LifeGroup?
4. Think of the specific people that you pray for regularly. Are you praying that they would grow in love, wisdom, right living and glorifying? How would praying for them this way help your attitude?
5. How would you gauge your "frustration" level with people right now? How would remembering that God is working in their lives (to complete the work He started) help you with that?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

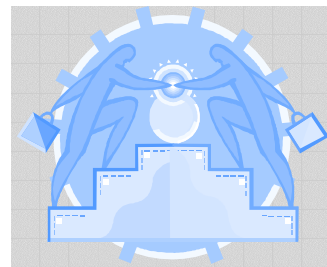
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

Locations, Times, Descriptions

9:00

10:45



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

Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104	Open—Hixson-Sturgill-Bower
Rm 112	Small Group Leaders Training	Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims-Fendley	Rm 201	20s—Jones-Norwood
Rm 202	Open—Hey-Lux	Rm 202	30s—Miller-Tripp
Rm 203	Young Singles—Bentzel	Rm 203	Singles—Reynolds
Rm 204	Making Peace with Your Past	Rm 204	Blessings in Disguise
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 206		Rm 206	Engaged/Newly Married
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 207	20s—Alexy
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 208	Open—Regis-Hubbard-Anderson- Robertson
		Gym-3rd fl	College Ayres-Getchell-Hopkins

March 7, 2004

Enjoy the Rest of Your Life

Discover principles for happy living from the book of Philippians

Celebration Fellowship

The Joy of a Good P & L

A preview of Philippians 1:12-26

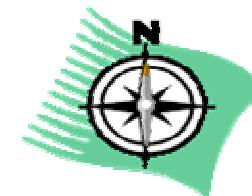
All business folks know how rewarding it is to have a good profit and loss statement, one with a healthy "bottom line". Life itself is that way; when we are engaged in activities that lead to eternal profit, we receive great joy. Paul shared his experience with this in Philippians 1:12-26. As he was imprisoned awaiting trial, he could have easily questioned how he could accomplish anything. But the secret of Paul's joy was that he saw growth in an eternal bottom line because of the very chains by which he was bound. This was the "P & L" he

was looking at, the one that led to eternal life. Due to his imprisonment, many were proclaiming the gospel on the outside, even though some did so with spiteful motives. He did not care, because the "bottom line" was that Christ was preached. Paul also realized that his bondage for the sake of Christ had led many Roman soldiers, especially those of the elite Praetorian Guard, to hear the story of Christ, and many were placing their faith in Him. Moreover, his situation had given many believers the boldness to preach the gospel



The secret of happiness is found in Christ!

themselves. In summation, whether Paul lived or died, he saw it as profitable. If he lived this meant support for Christ's followers and if he died it meant being with Christ. Paul's eternal P & L was solid.



Volume 2, Issue 31

March 7, 2004

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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

A Look Back—The 5 Purposes

It's exciting to see a good plan come together. God is a God of planning and purpose and order. Because we are made in His image we are most fulfilled when we function according to His purpose and plan. Over the last 8 weeks we have seen God do some incredible things among us, simply because we followed the plan laid out in His Word. We have come to understand again (some for the first time) that God has a purpose for each of our lives, and that a life is a terrible thing to waste. None of us are random acts of chance, but we have each been placed on this globe if we are to achieve the greatest fulfillment in our lives. This begins with a personal relationship with the Father, but expresses itself in public commitment to one another through local church membership. Then we become involved in small group, and serve one another with all of our lives, and begins by giving God a "carte

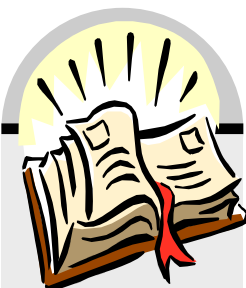
blanche" to direct our lives according to His will. When we do everything in our lives, 24-7-365, for His glory we have worshipped God. When we sing praises to Him, adore Him verbally, or simply bow before Him in submission we have worshipped Him—and this makes Him smile. His pleasure, not ours, should be the ultimate purpose for our lives. Next, God has purposed that we have fellowship with one another. We are not made to be dependent, or independent, but to be "inter"-dependent. We need each other, and should give ourselves freely to one another if we are to achieve the greatest fulfillment in our lives. This begins with a personal relationship with the Father, but expresses itself in public commitment to one another through local church membership. Then we become involved in small group, and serve one another with all of our lives, and begins by giving God a "carte

support is what fellowship is all about. Our 3rd purpose is discipleship. We must grow up in the Lord through His Word, through prayer, through relational and through emotional growth. In short, we are to become like Christ, the true measure of a disciple. Part of growth is ministry to one another, and this is the 4th purpose. All of us intuitively know that service is "the rent we pay for the space we take up on the planet", as one has said. It is even more true of followers of Jesus, for He is the consummate servant. Finally, we must give back the good news with which we have been entrusted. This is the purpose of evangelism. We must tell what Christ has done for us, and constantly pursue relationships in which the opportunity to do just that regularly presents itself. We must be "on mission" for Jesus. When we have fulfilled these 5 purposes we find that we are the beneficiaries of all that God has created us to do.

Reading Guide for Philippians 1:12-26

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

1. Read Philippians 1:12-15. What circumstances was Paul in (v13) and what had that resulted in (v12)? How would you describe Paul's attitude, and what does this indicate about his priorities?
2. What 2 things had happened due to Paul's imprisonment (v13, 14)? What was significant about the first result (v13) and how can this encourage us to remain steadfast in difficult times?
3. Why was the 2nd result (v14) important, and what does this say about our impact on one another? How should this also encourage us to be steadfast in difficult times?
4. Using Paul's experience in Phil 1:15-17 what 2 things are stirred up inside of others when they see us taking a stand for Christ (v15-17)? How can knowing this keep us from being sidetracked by criticism?
5. How did Paul feel about the gospel being shared from impure motives (v18)? Does that mean that motive doesn't matter, and how should this be applied today?
6. According to 1:19-20 what did Paul expect to happen to him, and what was his basis for this hope (v20)? How would Christ be exalted in his body, and how can we exalt Him in ours?
7. Through what 2 things did Paul expect to receive deliverance (v19)? How does this demonstrate the connection between prayer and the advancement of God's work? How should we apply this?
8. Read Phil 1:20-26. From vss 20-21 what was Paul's whole focus in life (v20), and how did it affect his outlook on life or death (v21)?
9. Why did Paul want to remain here on earth (v22, 24)? How would this keep him from "getting down"?
10. What 2 things specifically did Paul want to see happen in the lives of these Philippians (v25), and how are these 2 things linked? How can we apply this to us today?
11. What was Paul convinced of (v24-25), and how does it reveal what he thought about God? What clue does this give us about the way God works in our lives?
12. How did the Philippians feel about Paul (v26), and who did he want it to relate to (v26)? How did this motivate Paul, and how can we help others in the same way today?



"Our overarching purpose is to bring glory, not to ourselves, but to the God who created us, and died to give us eternal life."

Table Discussion Questions for Mar 14

Connect—Big Group

1. Ask the big group if they had some things this week that brought joy into their lives. Were these related to relationships that you are cultivating? If so, share some stories.
2. Ask different individuals to share if they have ever taken a stand for something good, and been criticized for it. How did that feel, and how did they respond? Today's study talks about how to maintain joy by focusing on the success of God's work.

Grow—Table Groups

1. Read Philippians 1:12-14. Why did Paul want the Philippians to know how he was doing, and how was this a key to his joy? How can we apply this to our lives when we go through difficulty?
2. What were the 2 results of Paul's imprisonment (v13-14)? Have you ever had the experience where your response to a difficult situation encouraged others, or maybe gave you an opportunity to share the gospel?
3. From Phil 1:15-17 what were the 2 reasons that others had started preaching the gospel in response to Paul's imprisonment? Why or why not do you think this was surprising?
4. According to v18 what was Paul's reaction to the petty jealousy that some had towards him? How was he able to have this attitude, and how can we apply this?
5. From Phil 1:19-20 why did Paul expect to be released from prison (v20) - what greater opportunity would it give him? What was his priority in life, and how did it affect his attitude (v20)? How can we follow this example?
6. How would you describe Paul's attitude about the outcome of his impending trial, whether it be life or death (1:21)? Put your name in Paul's phrase "for (your name) to live is Christ, to die is gain". What would that mean for you?
7. Why did Paul want to, and even expect to, remain here on earth (v22, 24)? How can we imitate this attitude? If we did what effect do you think it would have on our everyday lives?
8. In what sense, according to v26, should we be proud of each other? How can this encourage us to keep fighting the good fight?

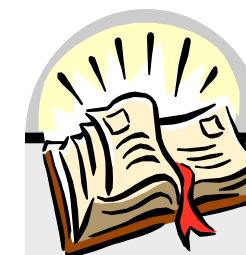
Summary—Big Group

1. Talk about some reasons from Phil 1:12-26 that Paul was able to maintain joy in his life, even though in prison. List some ways that we can do the same things in our lives today.

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 advancing the kingdom in your part of the world this week, and pray for others who are involved in this work (staff, fellow small group members, anyone that comes to mind).

**Memory Verse**

"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21