



SDG Discussion Guide

Philippians 1:1-10

May 26, 2019

For Starters:

Do you have a fond memory of a time or experience you shared with Pastor Charlie and if so, would you like to share it?

What mail do you open first: Bills? Official looking stuff? Personal mail? Love letter?

What was a challenging aspect of your week this past week? Elaborate.

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. What one word best describes Paul's feelings for the Philippians?
2. What word would describe the feelings you have for your church?
3. What is unusual about Paul's positive attitude in this letter?
4. On a scale of 1 (easy) to 10 (hard), how hard is it for you to express your feelings like Paul did here?
5. How is God at work in a believer's life according to verses 6 and 9-11? How does this make you feel about uncertainties in your life?
6. Who was the "apostle Paul" in your spiritual life, who introduced you to Jesus Christ and cared about your spiritual growth?
7. Who is your spiritual encourager now? To whom are you, or can you be, a spiritual encourager now?

Pray for one another. Holding nothing back, pray that your love may abound more and more in the knowledge and depth of insight, so that you and your small group may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God, amen.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).