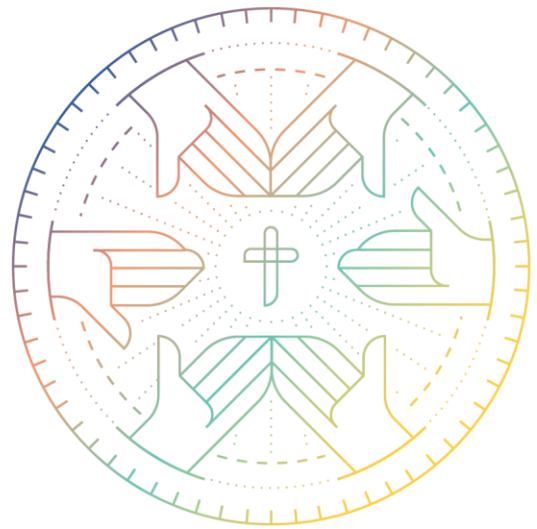


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Live Like Jesus: “Worthy of the Gospel”

Scripture Focus: Philippians 1:21-30

ICEBREAKER

If you could instantly become an expert at one skill, what would it be and why?

OR

What is something that has shaped who you are today—either through joy or difficulty?

INTRODUCTION

This week Paul gives one of the most famous statements in all of Scripture: “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). Everyone lives a version of that sentence. We all build our lives around something. For some, it may be success, comfort, family, achievement, security, or approval. Paul challenges us to let Jesus define both life and death.

What stood out to you most from this week’s message?

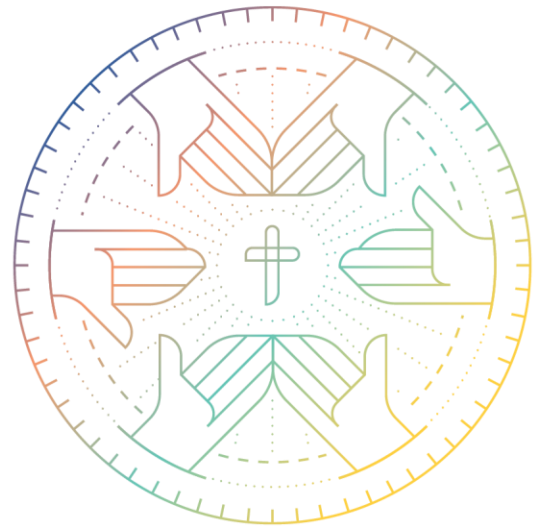
INTO THE WORD

Read Philippians 1:21–24, Galatians 2:20 and Psalm 90:12. What do you think Paul means when he says, “To live is Christ”? What are some common things people substitute for Christ as the center of life? How would your priorities change if Jesus truly became the defining focus of your life?

Host Guidance: Paul isn’t saying that life has no value. In fact, he sees tremendous purpose in living. What makes his perspective unique is that Christ is both the purpose of his life and the hope beyond death. Because Jesus is everything to Paul, death no longer has the power to threaten him. This challenges us to examine what sits at the center of our lives. Whatever occupies that place will shape our decisions, emotions, and priorities. Living like Jesus begins by making Him the defining reality of our lives.

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Read Philippians 1:27–28, Ephesians 4:1-3, Matthew 5:14-16, 1 Peter 2:11-12. What does it mean to live in a way that is “worthy of the gospel”? How should our heavenly citizenship influence the way we live in our community, workplace, or family? Where do you find it most difficult to represent Christ well?

Host Guidance: The word Paul uses for “conduct yourselves” carries the idea of citizenship. Philippi was a Roman colony, and its citizens were proud of their Roman identity. Paul reminds believers that while they may live in Philippi, their ultimate citizenship belongs to heaven. Christians are called to represent Jesus wherever they live. Living like Jesus means allowing His values, character, and priorities to shape how we interact with others and navigate everyday life.

Read Philippians 1:29–30, Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4 and Hebrews 4:15-16. Why do you think suffering is such a difficult topic for believers? How have you seen God use hardship to grow your faith or character? What does it look like to bring your suffering to Jesus rather than carrying it alone?

Host Guidance: Paul presents suffering as something God can use for spiritual formation. This doesn't mean suffering is good in itself or that God delights in pain. Rather, God redeems suffering and uses it to shape us into the image of Jesus. Jesus Himself experienced rejection, injustice, grief, and pain. Because He suffered, He understands our suffering. Followers of Jesus are not promised a life free from hardship, but they are promised His presence in the middle of it. When we walk through suffering with Christ, it is never wasted.

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Living like Jesus means:

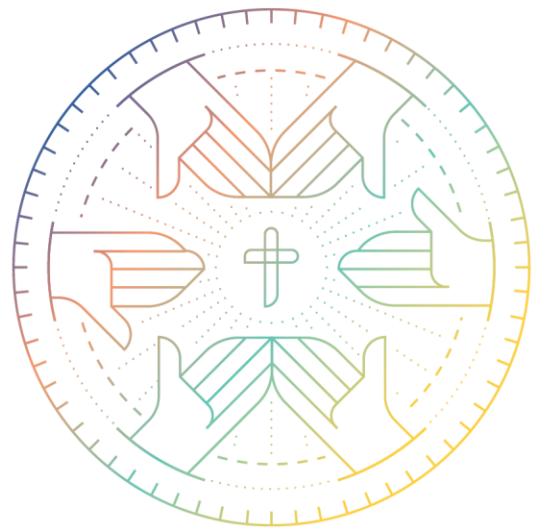
- Making Christ the center of your life.
- Remembering that your primary citizenship is in God's kingdom.
- Trusting that God can use suffering to shape you and strengthen your faith.
- Walking through hardship in community rather than isolation.

As a group, discuss the following questions:

- If you completed Paul's sentence, “For me, to live is _____, and to die is _____” what would honestly fill those blanks today?
- Where do you need to more intentionally live as a citizen of Jesus' kingdom?
- What suffering or struggle do you need to bring to Jesus this week?

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TAKE YOUR NEXT RIGHT STEP

(Prayerfully consider one of the following next steps)

- **Seek God Daily:** Spend five minutes each day praying through Philippians 1:21-30. Write down what God reveals to you.
- **Build Deep Relationships:** Share a current struggle with a trusted believer and invite prayer.
- **Make God Known:** Look for one opportunity to represent Jesus well through your words or actions.
- **Worship God:** Thank God for His faithfulness in a difficult season, even if the outcome hasn't changed yet.
-

OPTIONAL GROUP PRAYER PRACTICE

Give everyone a few quiet moments to reflect on the question: "What am I treating as life apart from Christ?"

Invite group members to silently surrender that area to Jesus. Then have the group pray for one another, specifically asking God to help each person live as a citizen of His kingdom and trust Him through both joy and suffering.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for giving us new life in Jesus Christ. Help us to make Him the center of everything we do. Teach us to live as citizens of Your kingdom and to represent You well in our homes, workplaces, and relationships. When suffering comes, remind us that we do not walk through it alone and that You can use even our hardest seasons for good. Give us courage to trust You, follow You, and become more like Jesus every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Don't forget to take attendance for your group!