

Fellowship Group Homework and Discussion

Getting Started

1. What was the main point of Pastor's lesson? Or what was your "take-away"?
2. Have you ever had the opportunity to "partner" with someone in your fellowship group who was suffering or had someone "partner" with you? How did that make them/you feel?

Going Deeper

Read John 15:18-21; John 16:33

3. What is Jesus' teaching on difficulties?
4. If Jesus said that trouble is certainly going to happen then why do you think people get caught off-guard by its presence?

Read Philippians 1:12-18

5. How do you think Paul's perspective on his imprisonment might be different than the average criminal or even good person wrongly accused?
6. What was Paul most concerned about through his imprisonment? (Hint - it wasn't about him)
7. How do you think this high concern worked itself out in his prayers?

8. Did the gospel lose any of its power because Paul was imprisoned? (Is the gospel still powerful in our suffering?)
9. List a few reasons why you think "most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."

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Read 1 Peter 3:13-22

10. According to this passage, did Paul have the right attitude? Please explain.
11. Can you name a time in your life (work, missions, family, etc.) that you have experienced suffering for being a Christian?
12. Like Paul, did you have the right attitude?
13. Paul seems to be saying in v.15 to use the difficulty as an opportunity to honor Christ; by doing what?
14. Here is the hard question; have you or are you willing to use the difficulties of life (health issues, financial trials, relational hardships, etc) to honor Christ?
15. If this would be your highest goal, then how might that impact the way you pray while in the midst of such times?
16. Finally, are you willing to "partner" with each other as you go through these times of suffering?
17. If you answered "yes," what might that "partnering" look like in your group?

18. A key purpose of our Fellowship Groups is to provide accountability. To help with that, discuss the following questions:

- Have you been making it a regular priority to attend a Sunday morning worship service?
- Have you been faithful in making Fellowship Group attendance a top priority?
- Are you praying regularly for the members of your Fellowship Group?
- Are you caring for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in your Fellowship Group?
- Are you taking steps to become more transparent with your Fellowship Group?
- Are you serving regularly in one area of ministry, preferably in your area of giftedness?
- Are you maintaining your Oikos list?
- Are you praying regularly for your Oikos list?
- What have you done this last week to reveal God to at least one member of your Oikos?



Series: Passionate Partnership
Part 3: Ambition
Philippians 1:12-18
May 22, 2011

The Big Point: My Circumstances Advance the Gospel (1:12)

Evidence #1: God Opened A Closed Door (1:13)

Evidence #2: Christians Are Now Sharing Boldly (1:14)

Alleviated Concern: God Can Use People With Wrong Motives (1:15-18)