



Life Group Sermon Guide Questions 11 OCTOBER 2026



Questions for Further Discussion: Read Philippians 1:1-5

1) **Read Philippians 1:1–2:** Paul addresses a remarkably diverse group of people as one church.

Read Galatians 3:26–28 and Ephesians 2:11–22: What does it mean that our primary identity is “in Christ,” and how should that identity shape the way we relate to people whose culture, nationality, denomination, social status, or background is very different from ours?

2) **Read Acts 16:11–34:** The text mentions the stories of Lydia (Acts 16:11–15), the slave girl (16:16–18), and the Philippian jailer (16:25–34). What do these three people have in common spiritually, and what is radically different about their backgrounds? What does their inclusion in the same church teach us about the kind of people God intends to bring together through the gospel?

3) **Read Philippians 1:3:** Paul doesn’t simply remember the Philippians; remembering them produces thanksgiving and joy.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2–3 and 2 Thessalonians 1:3: Who are some people whose faithfulness causes you to thank God when you think about them? What specifically about their lives makes you grateful?

My Joy and Crown

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4) **Read Philippians 1:5:** Paul uses the word *koinonia*, which means much more than social fellowship.

Read Philippians 1:3–7 and 2 Corinthians 8:1–5: According to these passages, what does genuine partnership in the gospel actually look like? How is it different from simply belonging to the same church or enjoying one another's company?

5) In Philippians 1:5, Paul celebrates the Philippians' long-term faithfulness to the gospel.

Read Hebrews 10:23–25 and 1 Corinthians 15:58: Why are perseverance and long-term faithfulness so important to God? What helps a Christian or a church remain committed to Christ when circumstances, culture, leadership, and people change?

6) The Philippian church contained people from very different backgrounds, yet they were united around Christ and the gospel.

Read Ephesians 4:1–6 and Philippians 2:1–5: What are some differences Christians can disagree about without losing their unity in Christ? Conversely, what gospel truths are so central that they should define the unity of the church?

7) Paul looks backward with gratitude at what God has done among the Philippians. The sermon similarly looks back over UCM's 112-year history and asks us to give thanks for its continuing "partnership in the gospel."

Read Psalm 78:4–7 and Deuteronomy 6:4–9: When you think about UCM's history, what are you most thankful to God for? And what would it look like for us personally to help carry the "fellowship of the gospel" forward to the next generation?



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