

# LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Philippians 3:1-11

## LEADER'S STUDY

### **Come to the table:**

God's invitation through the gospel is an invitation to come to the table and celebrate His grace. It is the invitation to all who are missing something, the weak, the oppressed, the rebel, the outcast the sinner to find exactly what they need and the only thing that truly satisfies, something so precious and costly it could never be afforded. It is not an invitation to come and buy it, rather is an invitation to come receive it as a gift. His grace through Jesus is the thing that every human heart needs and it is the only thing that can make us whole and right with God. Nothing else can satisfy that need. No amount of good work can buy it. Nothing we do can save us. Only the finished work of Jesus can. It buys our forgiveness and gains us the only thing that can make us complete. The thing that we need is Jesus Himself. Knowing Him matters beyond everything else. He has made a way for us to find Him and know Him. When we turn away from our self-leadership and our works, when we put all of our faith in Jesus' works, we are made whole. When God looks at us, he sees us as righteous as Jesus. We are hidden in Him. His invitation is to come to the table and celebrate knowing Him. That invitation is open to everyone.

As you read and prepare for this week ask yourself; What am I missing? What are the things I have done to fill that void or to make myself right? How Have I tried to buy what I can only receive as a gift? What things now look like garbage compared to knowing Jesus? Are there things I am still hanging on to, hoping they will satisfy me? What does it mean to be one with Christ? Do I have joy in knowing that I have received a gift I did not deserve through Jesus? What is God calling me to do with this joy? Who do I know that needs to hear this good news? How is God revealing Himself and his character through this scripture? How is God changing my thinking? How do I view others, and myself, differently because of the gospel? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Isaiah 55, Romans 6 & 10, John 4:7-13, Mark 2:16-17, Eph 1:7 4:7  
What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

## PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

**PURPOSE:** Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

**PRAY:** Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

### **PLAN:**

It might be helpful to allow some time at the beginning of your study to ask if anyone has ever questioned their faith in Jesus. Sometimes we just need the freedom and safety with others to voice the questions that are on our hearts. Often other people share the same questions, struggles and thoughts.

It is also a good idea to plan some time into your group to break up into groups and pray together. Sometimes people are more comfortable sharing and are more honest in a smaller group of 2-4 people than they are with the whole group.

As you meet together, you might identify people in your group who are open to a 1 on 1 or micro discipleship group. It is normal for these small groups to develop as you seek God together. Maybe it is as simple as asking someone if they want to get together over a cup of coffee and seek God together in scripture.

## **INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING**

READ Philippians 3:1-11

And meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective. (The New Living Translation is particularly helpful with this passage)

Consider reading the whole chapter or even the whole letter before your meeting to help you understand the context.

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

## **POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS**

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

**What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?**

**What seems to be the main point of these verses?**

**How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?**

**What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?**

**What parts of this passage can you relate to?**

**Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?**

**Why did God bring me to this scripture today?**

**What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?**

## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

**How is God calling you to obey, based on this passage?**

or

**What is your "I will" statement?**

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

**With whom are you going to share what you have learned?**

(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

**Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?**