



LEADER'S NOTES

PHILIPPIANS: RESURRECTED LIFE

To Live is Christ (Philippians 1:19-26)

Question 1 - allows time for your group to read and discuss our scripture for the week. It is OK to spend significant time on this question, but try to avoid addressing topics that will reemerge in the following questions.

Question 2 - and **Question 3** deal with similar themes. This question deals with how Christians should view life and death in broad terms as well as Paul's amazing statement that "to live is Christ, and to die is gain".

Question 3 - deals with verses 22 and 23, and in this question, we will discuss the themes of life and death much more specifically. Question three is one of the most important questions you will address this week. Please spend the bulk of your time answering this question. You may find that people in your group are struggling with fear or sadness as they contemplate their death. Like most Americans, they may be ignoring the fact that they will die. I do believe that how we view death directly affects how we live, so allowing them to contemplate a Christian understanding of death could be very helpful. The question also concerns Paul's statement that to live will mean fruitful labor for him. The question asks your group members to discuss what fruitful labor for Christ they are currently engaged in. If anyone is struggling to come up with an answer, you could remind them that having a healthy Christian marriage and raising children or grandchildren with a biblical worldview, would be included in fruitful labor. Of course, they may also think of ways that they are serving in ministries or going on mission trips. You might also use this opportunity to remind them that even ordinary tasks, like shopping, can become fruitful labor.

Question 4 - Ask your group members to consider the two key reasons Paul reports for wanting to stay here on earth: to help the Philippians progress in their faith and to have joy. The question then briefly discusses spiritual growth and the importance of choosing joy. These are important themes. Before discussing this question, you may want to consider what it means to choose joy and some of the ways that you personally choose joy.