

A Life Worth Living
Session 1 April 21 2024 A New Heart
Philippians 1:3-11

Resource (optional): A Life worth Living Video 1: 4/21 A New Heart
(All videos can be found at www.woodside-church.org under the Life Worth Living tab)

Icebreaker: Which Christian, living or historical, known personally to you or not, do you most admire and why?

Introduction

Read Philippians 1:3-11

Key Point: God is at work in us

Key Verse: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (v.6)

Turn to your neighbor and share a story about the change God has made to your life

1. A Heart of Confidence in the Power of God (Philippians 1:3-6). Watch video segment 1 or read Acts 16

The Point: Church in Philippi was very obviously established by God's power:

Acts 16 tells us how the church in Philippi began

- Initially Paul/Silas couldn't get into Asia or Bithynia (Acts 16:7)
- A vision from God to "come over to Macedonia" (v9)
- Lydia's conversion, stay at her house (11-15)
- Disciples are pursued by fortune-teller, evil spirit came out of her (16-18)
- Fortune-teller's owners furious she had lost powers (means of income), Paul and Silas put in prison (19-24)
- While they are praising and praying, earthquake, miraculous release (25-28)
- Jailer's household converted (29-36)

When he writes to the church in Philippi, therefore, Paul has great confidence in what God is capable of doing.

Similarly for us: The way God has worked in our lives so far should give us confidence in what he is able to do in the future (*Philippians 1:6*)

The promise of eternal life starts now and goes on forever!

When have you had to trust in God's power when facing difficulty? What helped you do this?

Application: Keep a journal of your own "journey in faith", jotting down answers to prayer and times when you've seen God at work. This builds our faith.

2. A Heart of Compassion for God's People Watch video segment 2 or Read Philippians 1:7-8

The Point: Paul has a deep love for the Christians in Philippi

- "I have you in my heart" (v.7)
- "I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus" (v.8)
- Shared love for Jesus and shared experiences of God's power at work in our lives provides a great foundation for genuine friendship.
- We can ask God for His heart- and it helps us see the people around us in a new light
- We can be intentional about treasuring and furthering the most mature of Christian friendships by beginning joint projects together and challenging or mentoring others.

Tell a story about when God has opened your own heart to care for a person you previously didn't care for.

Have you sensed a greater love/compassion for people since you began to meet with God (give an example)? What things cause this love/compassion to stop growing?

Application: Make a note of two other Christians you would like to get to know better. Resolve to text, e-mail or call to invite them for dinner or meet for coffee.

3. A Heart of Concern for Growth (Philippians 9-11)

The Point: look how Paul prays for the Christians in Philippi: *"And this is my prayer..."* for

a) Love

- *"that your love may abound more and more"* literally overflow

- **Who/What are the specific people/situations we need more love for/in at the moment?**

b) Understanding

- *"knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best"*

- **In what areas would you like God to give you more understanding/wisdom at the moment?**

(James 1:5: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God"*)

c) Holiness

- *"may be pure and blameless...filled with the fruit of righteousness"*

- "pure" = "unmixed"

- **Is there a particular individual you look up to in the "holiness stakes"? What is it about them that you would especially like to emulate?**

This kind of life will always be fruitful with the *"fruit of righteousness"* (v.11)

How do you hope to deepen your relationships as you grow in knowledge and love for God and for one another?

Application: Write privately on a piece of paper a particular person or situation where you want more love, understanding or holiness.

Closing

- Ask everyone to imagine being part of a group where everyone was confident in God's power, in healthy genuine friendships with one another, and personally growing in love, understanding and holiness. Invite prayers asking God to build such a community amongst the group.