



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

## **Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus To Live Is Christ, To Die Is Gain March 22, 2020**

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### **Passages**

- Primary passage: Philippians 1

### **Questions**

- Opener:
  - How are you doing?
  - What do you need right now?
- Share Experience:
  - How well do you tend to do at naming reality in difficult circumstances?
  - How free do you feel to name your emotions, especially difficult ones, to God?
  - How have you seen or experienced how fear and how courage are both contagious?
  - In what ways have you already experienced God's goodness this past week?
  - What invitation do you sense from Jesus right now while you're homebound?
- Dig Into:
  - How does Paul name the reality of his circumstances in this passage in Philippians?
  - How is Paul able to rejoice despite the difficulty of his circumstances as he writes the letter to the Philippians?
  - How did Paul's circumstances serve to advance the gospel? How might Jesus want to use this current pandemic for His purposes in your life? How might He want to use it for His purpose in the world around us?

## Creative Ideas

- Listen to the song *Anchor for My Soul* by Josh Garrels (See Additional Resources below). What thoughts and emotions does this song bring to mind for you? In what ways do you need to either A) Thank Jesus for how He's anchored you so far in this pandemic storm? or B) Recenter your hope on Jesus so you too can experience being anchored in this storm?

## Practices

- Every day this week, read Philippians 1:12-26 slowly and prayerfully three times. Notice what word, phrase, or idea sticks out to you. This is often the Spirit trying to draw your attention to something. Spend five minutes with Jesus asking Him what He wants you to see in this passage this week.
- Join the Church every weekday for our 3-Minute Devotional at 10am on the Santa Cruz Bible Facebook Page.
- Three days this week, as you're praying for the people on your Go Love Card, call them or send them a text. Let them know you're thinking/praying for them and see if there's any way you can tangibly serve them.

## Additional Resources

- The questions at the end are fantastic! <https://timchester.wordpress.com/2016/03/21/following-up-the-sermon-in-small-groups/>
- Song: *Anchor for My Soul* by Josh Garrels - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5O0OfKFMfD4>

## How to use this Walking in the Way Guide

1. It's important to know that there's more material here than any one group can cover in one night. Please DO NOT try to get through every scripture passage, question, and creative idea. That is a recipe for discouragement and burnout!
2. Do use this guide as a way to spark some discussion following from last Sunday's message. As the Community Group Leader, you know your group the best. Select which elements from this guide would be most helpful and relevant to your group!
3. **Scripture:** We will always give two or more passages of scripture that are relevant to the topic from Sunday's sermon. Ideally select one passage and stay there. Use only two at the most. You may want to have someone read the passage out loud and then work through the questions from the *5 Questions to Ask When Reading Your Bible* guide below. This is a great resource to print out and give to every member of your Community Group to help guide their own Bible reading at home!
4. **Questions:** There are more questions here than you'll likely be able to get through in one night. Select some questions you think might resonate with your group and throw questions to the group for discussion until one really takes off! You know a good discussion is happening when group members are interacting with and responding to what each other is saying and not just what is coming from you as the group leader!
5. **Creative Ideas:** If you feel it will help your group, select one of these creative ideas to help your group process and interact with the theme for this week. Feel free to add in your own creative ideas as well!!
6. **Practices:** This is how we grow in grace! Practices are what move a good discussion from merely interesting to life transforming. These sample practices are given to help you and the group live into the reality that was talked about on Sunday and that you interacted with in Scripture this week. **Choose one or (at most) two practices that you as a group will commit to doing this next week to live into God's truth.** As you come back next week, debrief how those practices went the previous week!
7. **Sample Schedule:** Here's a sample timeline for how to budget your time for a Community Group meeting. Keep in mind, this is a suggestion, not a rule to follow. **Do what works best for your community!**
  - **Arrival:** Catching up and Snacks - 15 min
  - **Intro:** See how everyone's doing. Maybe throw out an icebreaker question. As the group gets more comfortable, you can use this time to debrief the previous week's practice. - 10 min
  - **Scripture:** Dig into one passage from scripture using the 5 Questions (See Below) - 25 min
  - **Discussion** - 20 min
  - **Closing:** Decide on which practice(s) you'll commit to this week. Spend time praying for each other and those you sense God is sending you to - 10 min

## **5 Questions To Ask When Reading Your Bible - Worksheet**

Whether you're a seminary professor or you've just recently picked up a Bible for the first time, these five questions can help you engage with Scripture. Try using it by yourself or with a group of people to read, understand and live out the Bible.

### **Question 1: What is going on in the passage?**

- What's happening here?
- Who are the main characters?
- Very simply, *what is*?

### **Question 2: What do I like about the passage?**

- What parts of this passage/story encourage me?
- What inspires, pleases or excites me based on what I've read?
- Why?

### **Question 3: What disturbs or startles me about the passage?**

- What is it about this passage that reveals truth that may be hard to accept?
- What disturbs me or jolts, confronts or even offends me in my understanding of God, His Son, the world or my life?
- Why don't I like that?

### **Question 4: What does this say about the nature of God and/or the character of Jesus?**

- What does this passage say about who God actually is?
- What does this say about the essence of his nature?
- What can I see about the character of Jesus (his patience, holiness, compassion, righteousness, etc)?

### **Question 5: What will I do with what I just learned in the next seven days?**

- How will we respond to what we've just read?
- What will I do with what I just learned?
- How do I make sure that this wasn't just intellectual ascent? How do I put this into practice?