

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Aug. 28, 2011

Passage: Phil. 4: 4-13

Memory Passage: Phil. 4:13 (my translation) "I have the necessary personal resources to accomplish a particular purpose through Him (i.e., Jesus Christ) who causes me to be able to function."

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Phil. 4:4-13.** Take a moment to place these verses in the context of Philippians 4: What connections do you see between these verses and verses 10-20? How do they connect/flow into the following section? Look specifically at verse 19 given my translation of verse 13. How does this more complete understanding of the familiar verse 13 impact the truth of verse 19?

(b) We often think of particular stories in the Bible as being primarily about a human person but we know that the overarching concern of the Bible is Jesus Christ. How do you inadvertently make the Bible about yourself instead of God? What ways can you keep yourself from doing this?

(c) Think of a story in the Bible that you tend to think of as being primarily about a man or a woman. Reread that story and list ways in which the story is primarily about God and not the human person.

(d) *Family:* Make a list of a few familiar Bible stories. Assign to each family member one of those stories (as they are able). These stories will be each member's "assigned story" throughout the week. Homework tonight: become familiar with your particular story. Be thinking about this story through the lens of Phil. 4:13 and list how God provided the necessary resources to accomplish their particular purpose.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 13:5.** Phil. 4 is about being content. With what does Hebrews 13:5 command us to be content? Why?

(b) Can you think of any other passages where contentment is commended and perhaps even commanded? (Hint: Prov. 15:16, Mt. 6:25-34, and 1 Tim. 6:6)

(c) In what ways do you need to strive for contentment? Share how you plan to implement learning to be content in your life's situations.

(d) *Family:* **Read your stories from Day 1 again.** Try to find ways in which the main character was or was not content with his or her situation. If they were content, did they remain that way? How? If they were not content, what did it take for them to be content? What can you learn about contentment from the characters in your Bible story?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Phil. 4:8.** What does Paul list as the things we ought to be thinking about? How can we make this the lens by which we begin to judge our choices of television, music, books, movies, etc.?

(b) How does your thought life match up with the expectations of Paul? Share with your family how you plan on capturing your thoughts to Christ.

(c) The phrase, "You're so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good" has been used by many people. Explain why this is not a good mindset. Look at Is. 26:3 and Rom. 8:6-8 to help understand the importance of having a heavenly mindset.

*Family:* **Refer again to your Bible stories.** Do the characters' responses show a heavenly or earthly mindset? Why? How? Had God prepared the character for the particular purpose or was He preparing the individual for a future particular purpose? How was God causing the person in the story to function?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Phil 4:4-13 and then read Mt. 16:13-17, 21-23.** What does Jesus call Peter when He reprimands him? Why do you think this is so? Who does Jesus ultimately say is responsible for Peter's confession? How does this influence our understanding of Phil 4:13 (using my translation above)?

(b) Why is it important that we completely understand who gives us our faith? How does this impact our thoughts whenever we may doubt?

(c) When have you ever doubted that God's plan is not the best plan? What did you learn from that time? How has it shaped your ministry and faith today? (Think about Peter before and after Pentecost – he was still a fiery and brash person evidenced by his run-in with Paul in Gal. 2.)

(d) *Family*: Look back to your particular story and see how (if) the individual doubted that God's will was best. For example, Gideon laid out a fleece twice just to make sure. Discuss how the character in your story should have responded and what kept him or her from responding correctly.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Phil 4:13 and John 15:5 (particular the last part of the John 15:5).** What are these two verses saying? How are they saying the same thing differently?

(b) Discuss what John 15:5 means as regards to your doing *whatever* you are doing now. List some things you cannot do without Christ (hint: the word 'nothing' encompasses just about everything!).

(c) How often do you take for granted whatever you are doing? How often do you steal God's glory by not giving thanks to Him for enabling you to be able to function?

(d) *Family*: Taking the list made in part b, meditate on what you cannot do and then think about all that the Lord has enabled you to do. Discuss this as a family and remind one another of the grace and mercy each receives every day.

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*Christ, My Resource*