



Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!

If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions towards the end of the document.

- These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders.
- Use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation as the needs and culture is different from each group.

Outline

- I. Introduction and Main Scripture Readings
- II. Group Discussion Questions
- III. The Journey Resources
- IV. Support for the Leader

How to Use These Study Guides:

1. **Before the meeting:** Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
2. **Check In:** Begin each meeting with a short time checking in with one another.
3. **Read Scripture:** You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
4. **Ask Questions:** Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with and see how the conversation flows.
5. **End with Prayer:** Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

If your group meets over Zoom:

- Expect to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Be sensitive to attention spans over zoom. Keep meetings shorter than they would be in person.

Group Leader Support:

- Please reach out to your Campus Pastor if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic.
- If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor [Tim Ghali](#) from the Group Life team.

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

for Sermon given on May 26, 2024
by Pastor Tim Ghali

PARTNERING IN COURAGE – Philippians 1:18b-30



I. Introduction

We are in Week 2 of our new series called “Dear Church” and will be working out of Paul’s epistle to the Philippians. Paul is in prison awaiting trial and here he is writing to the churches in the city of Philippi updating them that he is ok, that he is grateful for their support, and that they ought to remain in unity despite the rising persecution they are facing. Amongst the themes of Philippians is “Partnership” and today we want to look at what it means to be partnering in courage.

Questions: What does it mean to partner together with courage?

Bottom Line: While being courageous is not the final objective for the follower of Jesus, it will take being courageous together to proclaim God’s love, hope, and salvation to our broken world.

Let’s begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

Main Scripture Readings: Philippians 1:18b-30

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

II. **Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some ways you have acted courageously over your life - think of as many amazing or silly instances you can (like the man who jumped off a bridge to save an infant or even Pastor Tim's story of talking to a table of girls).
2. What comes to your mind of Paul's dilemma of not being sure of what he preferred - to keep living and serving or to die and be reunited with Christ?
3. Paul tells his readers not to be intimidated by the persecution at hand. Why do you think this was a significant point of teaching for the Philippian church to learn?
4. In this message, we had the privilege of hearing from one of our Global Partners, Pastor Fayez Youseff from Jossour Ministries (Arabic for Bridges of Hope). In the recording, Pastor Fayez said, "Sharing in our troubles is the deepest fellowship we can have together." What does that mean to you?
5. Towards the end of the message, Pastor Tim made an important distinction that courage is not the objective, but using courage to fulfill the mission that Jesus calls us too.
 - a. How does that change our approach in serving God's Kingdom and sharing God's love?
 - b. What else might this type of posture change in our lives?

Final Takeaway:

While being courageous is not the final objective for the follower of Jesus, it will take being courageous together to proclaim God's love, hope, and salvation to our broken world.

Let's Pray

III. The Journey



We're all on a journey. Where is yours taking you?

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it's not just good for us, it is good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn't come from just hearing the words of Jesus. It comes from putting them into practice.

Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The **with-God life** of our personal habits and routines;
- The **with-others life** of our genuine and life-changing relationships; and
- The **for-the-world life** that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families, into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

Launching by the end of September: The newly, revised Discipleship Planning Tool

We invite your group to [take the assessment](#) and to spend a session to share about the practice and perspective you chose to focus on for the next three months.

IV. Support for the Leader

These Teaching Points are provided to help the group leader make connections from the message to their group with both insights from the Biblical text and opportunities in the life of our church.

Teaching Points:

- Philippians was a letter written by the apostle Paul to the church in Philippi while he was in prison in Rome around 60 AD
- The church in Philippi was the first church Paul planted outside of the Jewish world
- Pentecost Sunday celebrates the birth of the church – when the Spirit of God descended on those who were gathered in Jerusalem from all over the territory

- The Greek word Paul uses - the one translated as gospel – is the word *euangelion*
- In the Roman Empire, *euangelion* was the pronouncement of good will and good tidings, and would often accompany a ceremony of a town coming under the authority of the king
- Paul's announcement of *euangelion* was about the reign and the rule of Jesus is at hand and his kingdom is making its way. This ragtag group of Jesus followers were the outpost of that kingdom living in an outpost of Rome
- The real gospel is about Jesus making claims over all of life – even all of creation. It stirs things up. It has real life implications. It establishes a new way of thinking, living, loving and serving. It quite literally changes everything