

Instructions

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and pick 3-5 questions to discuss, which pertain to your group's unique needs and style.

For the video related questions, look up the video in RightNow Media. You can do this on a phone, tablet, computer, or SmartTV device. You can easily find the video by clicking on the "Revolution Church" channel within the app. If you or a group member needs access to RightNow Media, please email info@revolutionky.org.

Series Synopsis

When you think of living the good life, what do you imagine? Being happy, wealthy, or without a care in the world? Or maybe taking exotic vacations? Our world has a lot to say about what it means to live a good life, and it is not afraid to give us tips, products, and goals for pursuing that life now. But as it turns out, scripture has a different approach for finding the good life; often it comes through suffering, humility, and surrender.

Join us this October as we explore the letter to the Philippians to debunk the myths of the good life in our world today and discover the real power of joy in Christ.

Message Synopsis

We spend most of our lives avoiding death. It is not a good thing, nor was it God's original intention for creation. We were not meant to suffer and die. And some of us may even fear death today. So what in the world could Paul mean when he says to live is Christ but to die would be gain? And as we think of our own lives, the promises we are given, and the dreams and plans we have, how can we stay grounded in the truth, hope, and power of the resurrection of Christ?

Key Scriptures

Philippians 1:21-30, Acts 16 (the planting of the Philippian church)

Questions Related to This Week's Message

1. When you think of "the good life," what do you imagine?
2. What kind of life do you feel Christ calling you to right now?
3. Paul's desire to die and to be with Christ is sort of alarming (Philippians 1:23). To our modern ears, it is very unsettling; today, we do not consider it a good thing to *want* to die. What do you think Paul meant here? And how is this different than a desire to die because of the pain of our suffering?
4. What do you fear most about death and dying? Does it help you, even in the midst of a crisis, to ground yourself in the future promise and hope of the resurrection of Christ? What difference does it make?

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: "Philippians: To Live Is Christ, To Die Is Gain: Session 2 – The Worthy Life" by Matt Chandler (27 min) (located in the "Renovation Group Bible Studies" channel)

<https://www.righnowmedia.org/Content/Series/133?episode=2>

1. Take a moment to discuss the video freely. What stuck out to you? What bothered you? What questions did this raise for you? Even consider where and why your mind wandered as you watched, as it might reveal something of your heart or something of significance in the message.
2. Paul's exhortation is far less about physical death than it is about the power of community in living a worthy life. Together, we are bold against opposition, we are living as a light in a dark world, we are even being a witness by suffering well with each other. Spend some time talking about how you have found this to be true in your Renovation Group. How are you living your best life together?
3. Matt shares about someone who has a good life but risks it all to dig wells for people who would sooner kill him than drink the water he provided (kind of like those who sent Jesus to the cross). He wasn't looking for death in the sense that to die is gain, but perhaps he was already dead – to the selfishness that would have kept him home. Have you ever risked your life for what was right? What gave you the strength and courage to do it? What fruits did you harvest from that experience? Would you do it again?
4. Consider watching more of this series at home if you want to learn more about Paul's letter to the Philippians and how it impacts your life today.

Family-Related Questions:

Death can be a hard thing to talk about with kids, especially when they're young. But being brave and unafraid is already a part of most kids' imaginations. It's important to talk about Heaven with our kids (though Heaven is not our goal – relationship with God is our goal and that's something we can have here and now), but perhaps what Paul is driving at is more than that. Perhaps he's referring more to how we live NOW, even in the face of opposition.

1. How have your kids faced opposition this week (even in *you*)? What was their response? Likewise, how have your kids witness *you* responding to opposition this week (even from *them*)?
2. How does Paul's exhortation to the Philippians compare with your examples from the previous question? How could they be applied?
3. Paul emphasizes unity and strength in numbers as a way to live a worthy life, as a way to overcome fear, as a way to face death (not just physical death, but death of reputation, death of expectations, etc.). Who do your kids turn to when they're in trouble? Who do they rely on? Who do they feel gives them strength and courage? Who brings out the best in them? How can you encourage these relationships and teach your kids the value of these relationships? Perhaps more importantly, how can you teach your kids to be those relationships for other people?