

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

Our world is obsessed with winning. It is a dog eat dog world, and the winner takes all. And even if we don't live in these extremes of winning, we still come to value it in sneaky ways. We encourage our kids to make good grades, to make the school team, to be well rounded- why? So they can attend a good college- why? So they can get a good education- why? So they can get the best job, and then make the best income, and then buy the best house, and then.... Ohhh the good life. But that is not exactly how "winning" looks for Christ. In fact, the one most glorious and the highest name of all used his mighty victory to empty himself to nothing, to death. Why? So that we might share in the true victory of Jesus Christ. It seems that the real way to win in this life is to lose.

Key Scriptures

Philippians 1:27-2:15, Acts 16 (the planting of the Philippian church), Matthew 5:1-16, Luke 14:1-24

Questions Related to This Week's Message

Consider watching this week's video(s) before answering these questions to help broaden your perspective on the topic.

1. How competitive are you? Where do you find yourself always needing to win? Where do you think you're better than other people (this is a vulnerability test right here!)? What areas do you compare yourself with others most?
2. What is the root that causes us to want to win? Why do we compete? What does winning say about our identities and self-worth? Where did our need to compare ourselves come from (hint: look in the beginning)?
3. Discuss how it feels when you lose. Also discuss the beliefs you've acquired about yourself through past losses. How does this support your answers to the previous question?

4. How can you put this week's teaching into practice (in the specific areas you've already discussed or in general)? Where do you struggle with this the most (or where do you disagree with this week's teaching)? What are the first steps you need to take to become "renovated" in this area?
5. Okay, time to put this to practice... Pass around some notecards and take a moment to write something encouraging and uplifting to each person in your group - something you admire and look up to in them. You don't necessarily have to put your name on the card, but you can if you want to. Then either:
 - a. Give your cards to each other and read them silently (being careful not to let them fuel your own pride – this helps you shift your focus toward preferring others) OR
 - b. Collect all the cards as a group and read them all together (this focuses on the qualities of your group as a whole instead of as individuals.) No need to mention names – remember, you're finding your win together.
 - c. Do both – collect them first and then after your meeting, give the cards to each person as they leave.

If you're meeting remotely, you could do this by text, email, phone call or send each person a card this week. Take time to pray for each person as you do this, considering their needs and make an effort to keep the needs of your group in the forefront this week, before you think about your own needs. How can you help? How can you serve? Go ahead, get humble and get active in building up the body around you. You'll soon find overflowing joy and abundant relationships as you do!

6. Now consider those outside your group – especially those in our church and in your neighborhood and on the other side of town who think differently, look differently, act differently, believe differently. Consider the pandemic, the election, the issues of racism and violence that are plaguing our nation right now. How do you begin to humble yourself before them, to serve them, to love them, to pick them up and help them reach the finish line with you – together?
7. Repeat the prayer at the end of this document, which we prayed together during Sunday's worship. Read it all together or pick a leader and do a call and response.

Video and Discussion Questions from RightNow Media

Video: "Philippians: To Live Is Christ, To Die Is Gain: Session 3 – The One God Exalts" by Matt Chandler (27 min)

(located in the "Renovation Group Bible Studies" channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/133?episode=3>

For a shorter synopsis of this passage, you may also consider this 7-minute video:

Video: "The Book of Philippians: Session 3 – Philippians 1:27-2:11" by Jo Saxton (7 min)

(located in the "Renovation Group Bible Studies" channel)

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/368582?episode=3>

1. Take a moment to discuss the video(s) 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. God's grace to the humble is a common theme throughout Scripture. Besides the passages listed above and the ones in the video(s), what other examples can you think of in Scripture of God using the humble, poor, and weak to build His kingdom? Do you relate to any of these examples more than another?
3. Discuss a few of the Message-Related Questions in light of the video(s) you just watched.
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:

1. Philippians can be summed up in the acronym J.O.Y. If you want an abundant, joy-filled, “good life,” you need to consider Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last. Consider using this as a talking point with your kids this week.
2. How hard is it for you to be humble with your kids – to prefer them before yourself? This doesn’t just mean in action or obligation, but in attitude and heart. Why (or why not) is this challenging?
3. The best way to teach humility is by example, not by putting others in their place, using shame, or forcing them into losing situation. Yes, there are times when we need to win when it comes to parenting our children. But even then, it can be done in humility (you may want to discuss how), and it can be done in such a way as to find your win together. Still other times, it’s important that you lose in order to teach your children to lose gracefully. Give some examples of this in your own family and discuss how you can help each other with these things on a daily (sometimes hourly!) basis.

Prayer for Humility

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, **Hear me.**

From the desire of being esteemed, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being loved, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being extolled, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being honored, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being praised, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being preferred to others, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being consulted, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being approved, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being humiliated, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being despised, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of suffering rebukes, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being slandered, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being forgotten, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being ridiculed, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being wronged, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being suspected, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

That others may be loved more than I, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may be esteemed more than I, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may be chosen and I set aside, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may be praised and I unnoticed, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may be preferred to me in everything, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should, **Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.