Lenten Study on Philippians

Introduction
Welcome to the beginning of a six-week journey through the Book of Philippians! We will be utilizing “To Live is Christ; To Die is Gain” by Matt Chandler. You are encouraged to access his videos that correspond to these lessons for FREE on RightNow Media. If you need help logging in, please contact the Church Office – office@foccs.net or 719.481.2255.

For this study, we aren’t utilizing all twelve of Matt Chandler’s lessons, but rather I have chosen the six lessons I believe will give us the most mileage. That helps us logistically fit this into the 6 weeks of Lent; and if you choose to watch the other six videos, that is great!

It is my hope and prayer that this is an enriching time for you and for your StudyGroup or LifeGroup. Lent is a season that invites reflection in our walk with the Lord. For thousands of years Christians have used this period of time to ponder Jesus and His journey to the cross.

Every week in worship we will be tying into these lessons, so it will be an exciting time here at Family of Christ as the whole congregation spends time together unpacking the scriptures and applying them to our lives!

In Christ,
Pastor Moreno
Welcome and Prayer

Week One

Watch Session Two: “The Worthy Life” on RightNow Media

Read PHILIPPIANS 1:1-30

1. (Per the video) If the mature Christian life is a life where you (A) do life deeply with others regardless of external differences, (B) strive for holiness, and (C) press into Christ in fearlessness... are you growing in your relationship?

2. Describe some of the difficulties and challenges to living a life worthy of the gospel in our culture today. Be specific!

3. What impact does the dramatic polarization of our society (i.e. Republican vs. Democrat, Christian vs. non-Christian, etc.) have in your life? As you share the gospel? As you build relationships with others? What are some other polarized groups that affect you on a regular basis?

4. What are the barriers and external characteristics that we unconsciously (perhaps) use to divide our society and put people into different ‘groups’ in our minds?

5. List some of the factors and issues that keep Christians from standing together as one. How could this be improved among evangelicals?

6. The Greek word for ‘strive’ in 1:27 is συναθλέω (synathleō). It is defined as: “work with someone, implying against an opposition or competitive struggle” and is used only here and in Philippians 4:3. What does that verse and that definition imply about how we ought to ‘strive’?

7. Agree or disagree: Most Christians strive in many areas of life except their faith.
   A. If this is true, why is that and what can be done about it?
   B. In what other areas do you strive?

8. Why do Christians erroneously think that when we come to faith, our daily sin should disappear more than it does in reality? Where did we get this idea?
   A. Let’s not make the same mistake. How can we communicate tension between the unacceptability of sinning for the Christian, and yet the reality that we will still sin?

9. Define: “Fearless Christianity” and explain why it is so hard to practice?
Watch Session Four “The One God Opposes” on RightNow Media

Read PHILIPPIANS 2:1-30

1. (Per the video) Do you see people like they have souls, or are they your servants?

2. (Per the video) What things can you do that aren’t so pleasant so others do not have to?

3. What do you do when you see people chasing what appears to have value, meaning, and substance but is really chasing the wind? What do you chase that diverts your attention from God? Why do we chase wind?

5. James 4:6 says that God ‘opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble’. So?

6. Talk about the true source of our grumbling. Is it even feasible to never grumble?

7. For who or what would you risk your life? Would you honestly be willing to lose your life so that the gospel would advance?

8. Do you approach your community of faith with the attitude and the heart of ‘how do I serve’ or ‘how can I be served’? How can you either become a person that approaches it to serve or stay that way if you already are?

9. An objective evidence of conversion is humility in service. What are some others?
Welcome and Prayer

Welcome and Prayer

Week Three

Watch Session Five “Christianity Made Simple” on RightNow Media

Read PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

1. (Per the video) Why don't we yearn? Why is there a gap between certain 'great' men and women, and us? Is there a gap in you?

2. Why are we so easily satisfied?

3. The goal is not to be looking good on the outside, but to have our goal be Him. What does that mean and how does a Christian accomplish that?

4. What are some of the reasons we ought to go hard after Jesus?

5. What are the 'secondary pursuits' in our lives that distract us from the primary?

6. What are the things that stir your affections for Christ?

7. The author of Hebrews makes the claim that there is sin, and then there are things that hinder you that are not necessarily ‘sin’ (Hebrews 12:1) What are the things that hinder you that are not ‘sin’?
   
   A. What are you responsible to do with those? Keep them to yourself? Share with someone else? For what purpose?

8. How can someone who lives their Christian life as a list of rights and wrongs, move it to a life that is consumed with Christ?
1. (Per the video) What are some spiritual goals that you might need to set for yourself? Remember, these need to be tangible, possible, and need to have some kind of time-frame attached to them.

2. What changes would need to take place for someone to become an applier of the Scriptures instead of just one who acquires more knowledge of it?

3. Who are some men and women that are weak where you are strong? How can you purposely sharpen each other?

4. (Per the video) Who are godly men and women that you can get ‘under’? What keeps younger Christians from seeking out these relationships? What characteristics should these people have?

5. Why do we always want something new as opposed to growing in what we already know?

6. In what areas are you essentially living out a lie by not applying what you know? Who could you talk through this with, confess to, and get prayer coverage from?

7. Any time something negative happens, it is a gift to remind us of our fallen, broken world.” Is it really a gift? Is it truly possible to see the negative things that happen as a reminder that this is not home?

8. List some other areas of life in which you strain (i.e. job, school, etc.)? Why do those come to the surface and take priority over spiritual straining?
Watch Session Nine “Rejoice?” on RightNow Media

Read PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

1. (Per the video) What situations have you been in, what tragedies have befallen you, that you would ask God to redeem? What can you dwell on now that might change your perspective, knowing the teaching of this text?

2. ‘God knows every fact. Ever.’ What are the implications of that in your life? What about as you plan your life—mate, kids, jobs, money, etc.

3. ‘He does not owe you anything.’ What does that imply when struggles and hard times hit?

4. (Per the video) Matt describes his child as something ‘on loan from God’ and ‘everything I have is already His’. Do you see your kids like that? Your job like that? Your spouse? Your money?
   A. How would your life change in these areas if you truly saw it that way?

5. The session talks about not scrutinizing God. We probably do not do that overtly, but are there subtle ways we live where we show a lack of faith and arrogance by scrutinizing Him?

6. One of the toughest things is when we see someone hurting to give wise counsel. We give either ridiculous Christian advice (“Smile…God is in control.”), or go the other extreme and do them injustice (“I understand. It is OK to be mad and to be frustrated with God.”) What can you tell a person who is hurting? A way to think about it might be to ask yourself what could someone say to you that would actually help?
Watch Session Twelve “True Contentment” on RightNow Media

Read PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23

1. (Per the video) How do we become someone that does not just give mental assent to facts but have our life changed by the Bible and by Christ?

2. Define ‘contentment.’

3. What are the two places from which we learn contentment?
   A. Of the two places, which do you learn more from?
   B. Are you exclusively from one or the other?
   C. Why do you think you lean towards one over the other?

4. (Per the video) Matt is telling a story of his horrible illness in Asia and how he had sweet times with the Lord during that episode. How does someone in a time like that have a sweet time with the Lord? Is that realistic for all Christians or just pastors?

5. How would you explain to someone—in context—Philippians 4:13? Are there any other passages that come to mind that you hear often taken out of context?