

# Community Group Discussion Questions

“In it to WIN it”      Philippians 1:1-11      Oct 21/22

## Getting Started

God is extending to you an invitation to be a part of something bigger than you, beyond you, all while seeking to bless you. This invitation is simply “WE can do more together than apart.” Being “in it” is choosing to define what we are willing to fight for, and today’s message challenges us to “FIGHT FOR UNITY”.

Share with us about a time you did something with a group or a team that was very meaningful to you. What was it about working with others that make it special and exciting?

## Going Deeper

- I. Priority of the Gospel: (1-2)
  - A. Proclamation: “all the saints” (1)
  - B. Presentation: “Grace to you and peace” (2)
  - C. Preservation: “from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (2)

The good news that Jesus has paid for our sins, raised from the dead to life again, and is living inside each of us is amazing! Share with each other how having Jesus as your Savior and source of power has changed your life? What’s different from the old you to the new you?

- II. Partnership in the Gospel: (3-5)
  - A. Making Memories: “remembrance”, “always”, “joy” (3-4)
  - B. Doing Ministry: “the first day until now.” (5)
    - (In)vestment
    - (In)volvement:

The word ‘partnership’ means both a personal involvement and a financial investment. The Apostle Paul mostly worked bi-vocationally as a missionary, but the one church he willingly received financial support from was the Philippian church. Several times, they sent him money as he

traveled and started new churches in cities. How are you personally serving at CBC or in the city? What are some ways you are or can start to financially support the work of God through CBC or in Christian non-profits? (Leader: you may mention Crisis Pregnancy Centers, food distribution groups, caring for the homeless, the poor, and those with special needs, building homes, short-term mission trips, etc. If you haven't already, you may want to introduce your group to [cbcmissions.com](http://cbcmissions.com). The 'Serve Your City' link shows several dozen of our San Antonio partner organizations where your group can volunteer.)

### III. Progression of the Gospel: (6)

- A. Certainty: "I am sure of this"
- B. Commencement: "began"
- C. Completion: "at the day of Jesus Christ"

One of the wonderful things about belonging to Jesus is that He promises He will never let go of us. Whether that 'good work' is referring to the Philippians financial generosity becoming more mature/perfect as they grow in their faith and their missionary heart for the world, or whether it means that 'good work' more broadly encompasses the whole of their spiritual faith life, the intention is the same: Jesus will finish what He started. How does this reality give you confidence and courage in the daily struggles and doubts you go through?

### IV: Partakers in the Gospel: (7)

- A. Defending: "in the defense" (apologia-apologist)
- B. Contending: "confirmation of the gospel." (to cause to be known as certain)

*Key Verse:* 1 Peter 3:15: "being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you..."

One of the most unattractive things about Christians is when they publicly argue in a combative way about their faith. What are some ways you can

winsomely share with others what the Bible says about the gospel and Jesus? (Leader: point them to some of Jesus' words about this: "let your words be seasoned as with salt, you are the light of the world")

How can telling your faith story (testimony) help to **confirm** the gospel?

IV. Pursuit of the Gospel: (9-11)

- A. Love Abounding: "love may abound" (9)
- B. Knowledge Advancing: "more and more, with knowledge" (9)
- C. Discernment Approving: "approve what is excellent" (10)
- D. Fruit Affirming: "filled with the fruit" (11)

At the moment we place our trust in Jesus as our Savior, we are saved. We are declared righteous and innocent before God. And yet... we all still struggle with sin as we learn to let Jesus live in us and replace all our old ways of thinking, coping strategies, sin patterns, etc.

What do the words in these verses show you?

Can you be 'saved' and still stay the same?

What should be happening in your heart and in your life?

How can we, as your group, help you grow and abound?

*Take Away:*

"I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be"

- John Newton (former slave trader who became a Christian, then a pastor, and then wrote Amazing Grace)

### **Prayer Requests**

Pray for the exciting Fall and Winter seasons at CBC as God continues to draw people to Himself.

Pray for new opportunities to reach people.