**Philippians 2**

Life Group Outline

**Opening**

Begin Life Group however you normally would - catching up from the week, sharing a meal, asking an opening question, etc.

**Bible Study**

Last week, we looked at Philippians 1 and we talked about Real Devotional Life. Tonight we’re going to focus on Real Community. As we keep going in our Phillipians study, we’re going to pay particular attention in chapter 2 - to the way Paul describes Real Community, including what needs to happen in each person’s heart and in the community as a whole.

Read Philippians 2:1-4, either out loud or each person on their own.

* What stuck out to you? What questions were generated?
* How does Paul say that if the Philippians should live, if their relationship with Jesus means anything to them?

Read Philippians 2:5-11, either out loud or each person on their own.

* How does Paul describe Jesus’ mindset?
* Why is how Jesus lived a big deal?

Read Philippians 2:12-18, either out loud or each person on their own.

* What did Paul say would make the Phillipians different from the world around them?
* Do you think that’s still true, would we look different if we too followed Paul’s advice?

Read Philippians 2:19-30, make sure to read aloud or listen to this section together.

* How does Paul describe his friends/coworkers?
* How does his description make you think of them?

Paul honors his brothers and sisters in the Lord, essentially the people in his Life Group. In the original Greek, the word honor literally means to add value, to give value. Another way to say it would be to give weight.

We know that people have an intrinsic value, meaning they did absolutely nothing to earn their value, but the Lord stamped His image upon them so, therefore they have incredible value. Honoring someone acknowledges their intrinsic value and allows us, and them, to act accordingly. E. Stanley Jones said, “Honor is a crown you place above someone’s head, believing they’ll grow into it,” meaning we choose to honor someone before they have “earned it” because we believe the image of God stamped on their hearts will eventually speak louder and change their actions. If you treat someone like a king long enough they’ll start acting like it.

Now this doesn’t mean that we make something up about people - absolutely not! We honor what is honorable. We honor those true, good things that we see deep in others, In this passage Paul honors both Timothy’s & Epaphroditus’ actions and heart. Honor is just another form of trusting the Lord, that he will complete his good work in every person you are around.

* ***Life Group leader share first*** *-* Have you ever experienced someone speaking of others with the honor that Paul speaks with? How did they speak with honor?
* How do you feel when someone honors you?

After reading and discussing through Philippians 2, process these overarching questions:

* How does our Life Group live out Real Community well?
* What is an area I notice that I need to grow in, in order to live out Real Community in this Life Group?
* Who is one person you will seek to honor this week?
* What verse do I need to work to memorize this week so that I might be reminded of how essential Real Community is? (*You could decide on one verse as a Life Group or each person could choose their own. Make sure you follow up with them next week.*)

**Closing**

Close in prayer. Thank God for the community he has given you and take time to pray for each other. Remind them of our reading challenge - chapter 2 this week!