**Philippians 1**

Life Group Outline

**Opening**

Begin Life Group however you normally would - catching up from the week before, prayer, etc.

We get to do something really cool this month as the larger Chi Alpha community. All of the Life Groups are going to be doing the same four lessons for the next four weeks. We wanted to read through Philippains together for a couple of reasons:

1. It’s an awesome book and something really sweet happens when we dive into a section of Scripture and focus and meditate on it for a long period of time and 2. This book displays different aspects of the 3 Reals of Chi Alpha really well: Real Devotional Life, Real Community and Real Responsibility.

This week, we’re going to be looking at chapter 1 and focusing on Real Devotional Life, but first, I want to ask a question: What does devotional life mean to you? Not what does it look like for you, but more so why is it important for us to have a devotional life?

*Look for answers that point to devotion to God - a relationship with Him, to become more like Him, etc.*

The reason I wanted to ask that is because I wanted to set us up for what we’re focusing on tonight. There is a difference between reading devotions everyday and being devoted to Jesus. In being devoted to Him, we will have daily devotions and prayer, but those things by themselves don’t display a life devoted to Jesus. So that’s just something to keep in mind for the rest of the night.

**Bible Study**

Background on Philippians: Paul is in prison, writing to the church in Philippi. So he’s writing to believers and they’re very dear to him because they support him in his mission to share the gospel in different places. He’s basically writing to them to tell them how he’s doing, how his work is furthering the Kingdom, and to encourage them.

Read Philippians 1:1-11 out loud together (you can do it or pick someone to).

* What stuck out to you? Do you have any questions about what’s going on?
* Think about verses 9-11. (Read again) How do you think we can be “pure and blameless, filled with the fruit of righteousness” in terms of having a devotional life?

Read Philippians 1:12-26

* How do you see Paul’s devotion to the Lord played out in these verses?
  + Can you think of anyone in your life that you look to as an example of devotion to God?
* Fill in the blank: For me, to live is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In other words, what in your life do you often replace Christ with in that blank, whether you always realize it or not?

If we fill in that blank with anything besides Christ - and we all do it in different seasons of life - then to die is loss. Paul knew that when he died, he would be with the Lord and that would be tremendous gain! When we live for and in Christ, we can have that same assurance. Paul also knew that to live in Christ meant doing Christ’s will, seeing others come to know Him, knowing Him intimately and becoming more like Him by being transformed. And how do we do those things?

That’s where devotional life comes in. When we are wholly devoted to God and His mission, then we long to spend time with Him. We want to be saturated in His word and in prayer, having constant relationship with Him, not just for a couple of hours a week at Monday Night Worship or in Life Group. Being devoted to someone means spending time with and talking to them every day. Think about any other relationship you have - best friends or a significant other. How weird would it be if you only talked to or hung out with them once or twice a week and the only things you knew about them, you learned in a school kind of setting and not from one on one time with them. Hanging out in groups is cool too, that’s why we have Life Group and MNW, but one on one time is essential for relationships to grow and thrive.

* How can you begin to put Christ back into the blank: for me, to live is Christ? What things might you need to get rid of or cut back on to make sure He stays there?
* How will you focus on spending one on one time with Jesus everyday this week?
  + How will we keep each other accountable as a group?

**Life Group leader share** how having a solid devo life has changed your life from going through the motions of a relationship with God to being devoted to Him. Encourage your group that the same is available to them.

Let’s finish out the first chapter.

Read Philippians 1:27-30

* This week, let’s start to live a life worthy of the gospel of Christ. We will do that if we are wholly devoted to Him.
* Next week, we’ll talk more about community and how we can “stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving for the faith of the gospel”. But we can only do that if we all devote ourselves to Him individually too.

**Closing & Prayer**

We’re so excited to go through Philippians together! (Either someone or you) close in prayer, thanking God for all He’s done and will continue to do through your group and asking to be strengthened in devotion to Him in this next week.

As a part of growing our devotional lives and going through Philippians together, we thought it would be cool to challenge ourselves to really dive into Philippians.

**Reading challenge** - Read the chapter of the week once a day each week. (So this week, we’ll read Pilippians 1 once each day. Then next week, we’ll read chapter 2 each day, etc.)

We can put something new in the group chat each day that sticks out to us! What do you guys think?