Grow Group Study – Philippians Ch.4 (Group Lesson)

###  Summary

Paul is nearing the end of his letter and is tying up some loose ends. This is one of the most challenging sections of the book. He exhorts us to remain determined, committed, joyful, gentle, prayerful, thankful, content, and generous.

**Big Idea:**
Unity and joy from the God of peace.
**Fallen Condition Focus:**
We dispute with each other and live joyless, anxious lives because we fail to seek the God of peace and keep our minds on the good we have in Christ.
**Christ-Centered Solution:**
God has brought us together in Christ so that we have unity and the assurance that the God of peace knows our troubles and is with us.

### Launch

In general, how do you make yourself feel happy, especially when going through tough times?

### Explore – Read 4:1-3 [Peace With One Another]

1. (vs.1) What does Paul mean by calling the Church of Philippi his “joy and crown”?

2. (vs.1-2) Paul exhorts the church to “standfast in the Lord”, and then tells Euodia & Syntyche “to be of the same mind in the Lord.” Explain what it means to be of the “same mind”, and determine why this is so important as a church.

3. (vs.3) Paul encourages the church to help fellow labourers in the gospel. He then alludes to all his fellow workers whose names are found in the Book of Life. What is the Book of Life?

### Explore – Read 4:4-9 [Peace in Our Hearts and Minds]

4. (vs.4) How is it possible to rejoice in the Lord always, especially during hard times?

5. (vs.5) Why does Paul exhort the church to demonstrate gentleness in light of Christ’s return?

6. (vs.6) Anxiety is a form of fear, and Paul commands the church not to be anxious for anything. Is Paul unrealistic to ask this of them, and what is his solution to anxiety?

7. (vs.7) Paul speaks of a peace that comes as a result of our obedience to verse 6. Describe that “Peace”, and how it guards our hearts.

8. (vs.8) What does Paul exhort us to do in order to stay out of anxiety?

9.  Why does Paul place so much emphasis on the mind (1:27, 2:2, 2:5, 3:15, 3:19, 4:8)? How does the mind fit into our experience with God, or our ability to live a life worthy of the gospel?

### Part 2

### Summary

Paul closes his letter to the Philippians by returning to a thought that he began his letter with, his partnership with the Philippians. Here Paul does not have any sin to call the Philippians out on, but praise for excelling in concern and generosity. Paul indicates that the value of such generosity is not limited to the help that it provided Paul, but is primarily valuable because it brings God pleasure to see his children providing for each other out of the confidence that He will richly provide for them. This, of course, brings God glory. So Paul closes by calling for the glory of God, echoing his prayer at the opening of the letter that the Philippians would be “filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God” (1:11).

**Big Idea:**
Care and Generosity for the needs of others.
**Fallen Condition Focus:**
We become concerned only for ourselves when we don’t know the God of generosity.
**Christ-Centered Solution:**
God is sure to supply all our needs according to his riches in glory when we are generous toward others.

### Explore – Read 4:10-13 [Joy for the Philippians Concern]

1. (vs.10) What is Paul rejoicing in?

2. (11-14) Why would it be significant for the Philippians to know that Paul is not rejoicing because they alleviated his need?

3. (vs.11-13)  What is Paul’s secret to contentment and strength? How does this work? Discuss the difference between contentment & satisfaction.

### Explore – Read 4:15-23 [Generosity Unleashed Through God’s Generosity]

4. (vs.15-17) Paul reveals the unique relationship he has with the Philippian church. How is his relationship with them unique among the churches he planted?

5.  What is the difference between volunteering and partnership?

6. (vs.17) What is Paul’s greatest desire for the Philippians in their generous partnership?

7. (vs.18) Why does Paul call their gift a sweet smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, and well-pleasing to God? Was it a gift to Paul or to God and how might the different perspectives affect someone’s giving?

8. (vs.19) How does this verse help us in our giving and what might Paul want to emphasize about God’s generosity with the phrases, “according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus?

### Apply

1.  Who has God put into your life that is in need? What are their needs? What would it look like for you to partner with them and show concern for them?