

INVINCIBLE JOY

Group Guide:
Week 3

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- What is something that you are afraid of?
- What is a major goal for you in life?
- Discipleship Check-In

INTRODUCTION

This week we are continuing our journey through Philippians and seeing how Paul finds joy in unexpected places. This passage is no different. Paul commands the Philippians to work out their salvation with fear and trembling. But how can this lead to joy? Paul will show us that it gives us a better fear, goal, and ultimately a better life. First, let's pray and ask the Spirit to fill each of us so that we might see how Paul finds joy by working out his salvation.

A BETTER FEAR

READ: Philippians 2:12-13

DISCUSS:

In the first few verses we encounter that phrase: "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Fear and trembling don't feel like they are meant to be a part of the Christian life, but throughout Scripture we are told to fear God. When we fear God we recognize what Jesus said in Matthew 10:28 to be true. Read Matthew 10:28. What is your understanding of what it means to fear God? How does this verse change your view of what it means to fear God?

A BETTER GOAL

READ: Philippians 2:14-18

DISCUSS:

For Paul, helping others work out their salvation is worth it **even if** it means struggle, sacrifice and suffering. How does this hit you? Is there someone God is inviting you to sacrifice for?

A BETTER LIFE

READ: Philippians 2:19-30

DISCUSS:

Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus are examples of working out your salvation with fear and trembling and becoming a drink offering for the sake of other people's faith. Their lives are by no means easy, but they are better because they have found joy in their salvation together. Where have you seen joy increase in your own life when walking alongside other believers? How can you pursue working out your salvation as a community this week?

PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

Praise God that he is the only one that we have to fear and that he calls us into a work that is hard, but ultimately rewarding and pleasing to him. Praise Jesus that by his death and resurrection we don't have to work for our salvation, but are freed by his grace to work from it. Praise the Spirit for being the one who ultimately does this work for us. Pray that you would embrace working out your own salvation as a community and find ways to sacrifice for one another.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?