



BEGIN WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE

How well do you really know the people in your group? I am always fascinated that if I ask good questions and listen well, I can learn something new almost every time I sit down with even an old friend. Here is a great opportunity as a group to hear about the church experiences people in your group grew up with and open a window into how they think about church today. This is such a great set of questions that you will need to think ahead about how to creatively limit the time without stomping on the discussion. You could give each person 2 minutes to answer all 3 questions, you could ask them to answer all 3 questions (but focus on one), or think of some other creative way to set a time boundary for this discussion.

A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

Before you read through Philippians as a group, look around the room and see if there is anyone in the group who is uncomfortable reading out loud – give people permission to pass if they just don't like to read or just assign 3-5 readers to take turns. Help people to understand the limits of an overview reading of Philippians. They don't need to make a comprehensive list of every possible answer to the questions asked, but watch for some highlights instead.

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

Review and pray together. Here's a reminder of our 6 life questions. 1. Is the Spirit flowing through me 2. Did God make my day? 3. Who shares my tough stuff? 4. How worn is my welcome mat? 5. Who am I fishing with? 6. How are my investments doing?

Announcements:

Men's Kick-Off Speaker, ISU basketball coach Steve Prohm, and a fantastic meal. That's what awaits you at our annual men's kickoff event! Join us October 15 at 6:00p in the gym to hear Steve Prohm, ISU men's basketball coach, share about his spiritual journey. Tickets can be purchased through October 15.

Discovery Fellowship Discovery Fellowship is an orientation to Christ Community Church for those who want to learn more about church membership. Our next Discovery Fellowship is Thursday, October 5, 7:00 - 8:30p in Room C8 & 9. If you plan to attend, call the church office [232-2765] by October 3.

Cookie Ministry Various ministries need an average of 90-100 dozen cookies/month. You can help in one of two ways: bake at home and bring cookies or bars to the church (Oct.8 or Oct.15), or join us for one of our cookie baking events at church, Oct.28, in the church kitchen from 10a to noon, or noon until 2p. Sign up in the atrium or on the website under Serve 2nd Place.

Host a Dinner at Main Event - Iowa State Navs are hosting the Main Event conference this October! We need families to host a dinner in their home for 6-8 students on October 21 from 5:15-7:30p. They will share about their relationship with Christ and what He means to them and engage students to share about God's work in their lives. Go to www.navsmainevent.org and click on Host Dinners.

Join the Choir - Classic Choir sings in the Classic Services once a month. If you are interested, contact Peggy Dieter, 233-9208, peggy.dieter@gmail.com.

Mission Open House - Sunday, Oct.1 at 4:30p, room C3/4, we host Alexey and Olesya Bannikov, mission partners in Kazakhstan. Our nearly 20-year history with them has allowed us to see God move, including the exciting development of a new church building and growth. Meet the whole family and learn more.

CONNECT GROUP STUDY

INTENTIONAL: Jesus' Vision for Us Together

Intentional #5
David A. Staff, Teaching Pastor

INTRO: This week's teaching addressed Jesus' big picture purpose for the church He purposed to build (i.e., to prevail against the *gates of hell*). It urged that Jesus' specific call to Christ Community Church in Ames was to especially initiate in ministry that seeks both to enrich family health/life and to extend redemptive care to those from around the world.

BEGIN WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE

It seems everyone has had a different experience with "church" over the years. For some, it was encouraging, positive, nurturing. It helped set one's personal, spiritual, and moral compass. Solid friendships happened as faith in God and confidence in life grew. For others, church life and experiences were boring if not downright confusing. You wanted to be anywhere else. **To kick off your study together**, share two things with your group.

- #1 Was your experience with "church" more on the "plus" side or did it drift toward the "minus"?
- #2 What were the "pluses" or the "minuses" for you?
- #3 Out of your experiences, what did you conclude "church" was for?

IN THE WORD

For a few moments, let's entire the life of one of the churches in the New Testament – the church which met in the city of Philippi. Turn to [Philippians](#) as a group. Our objective is to do the following

#1 READ the letter out-loud together, around the circle. Have each read a paragraph, and then the next.

#2 AS OTHERS ARE READING, jot down your observations (& what verses your observation comes from) about 3 questions:

One – **What is this church for?** (What do you hear Paul saying about WHY Jesus' church is in Philippi?)

Two – What **can diminish the effectiveness** of a church?

Three – What **can energize the effectiveness** of a church?

#3 AFTER THE READING, share what you observed in answering these 3 questions:

What did you learn? What surprised you? What real-person examples did you see?

Garrison Keillor once commented on the importance of a church which energizes a changed life: *If you can't go to church and at least for a moment be given transcendence, if you can't pass briefly from this life into the next, then I can't see why anyone should go. Just a brief moment of transcendence causes you to come out of church a changed person.*

MY LIFE - OUR MISSION

In our INTENTIONAL series, we've been exploring what Jesus can do when his disciples are **purposeful**. We've been urged to understand: ***What is Christ Community Church for?*** Review for a moment

our MISSION: We exist to connect people to life-defining relationships in Christ

our VALUES: transparent relationships, purposeful responsiveness, intergenerational disciples, radical generosity

our STRATEGY: Gather in worship, Connect in relationships, Serve the mission

our MEASURES: the 6 Life-Questions (can you state them? 😊)

Ultimately, we are prayerfully asking the Lord Jesus to build His church through us, as people are loved and their lives are redeemed and transformed in Jesus. **FINISH** by praying about what you discovered in [Philippians](#) about what can energize our effectiveness as a church. What has the Lord challenged you to bring to the life of our Body which can make "church" a life-changing experience for others?