

# HOPE

## HOME GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**READ** Philippians 1:3-11

**SHARE** words, phrases, truths that stuck out to you; any questions you have; new insights.

**DISCUSS** the passage together.

1/ What words or phrases in this passage demonstrate Paul's emotions toward this church? What do they tell you about Paul?

2/ Make a list of things that cause Paul to be thankful. How does this encourage you? How does it challenge you as you compare his list to the things that you are typically thankful for?

3/ On the one hand Paul celebrates the church's work (v. 5). Yet on the other hand Paul *emphasizes* it's all God's work in v. 6. Read Philippians 2:12-13 and discuss the twin truth in the Christian life. How does it encourage you to "leave everything on the field" for God's glory?

4/ What is the "day of Jesus Christ?" (6; 10). Do we need to be afraid of that day? Why? It seems Paul had a sense that history was going somewhere. And that the future impacted how we live *today*. Discuss.

5/ Paul is very comfortable using intimate words to describe his relationship to Christ and to the church. How does vv. 7-8 demonstrate this? How does it challenge the way you view your relationship to Jesus and his church?

6/ Read Paul's prayer in vv. 9-11. If God answered this prayer at Hope, what would we see in our gatherings, our families, our work lives? Be specific.

**APPLY** the text to your life (these questions from Redeemer NYC might help).

1/ How can I praise him?

2/ How can I confess my sins on the basis of this text?

3/ If this is really true, what wrong behavior, what harmful emotions or false attitudes result in me when I forget this?

4/ What should I be aspiring to on the basis of this text?

5/ God, why are you telling me this today?

**PRAY** together for the things you just shared, and also for anything else in your life.