

7. Read **Philippians 1:22**. If Paul continues to go on living in the body, why will *his labor be fruitful*?
8. Why is it so hard for Paul to know whether he prefers to live or to die and be with Christ?
9. Read **Philippians 1:23-26**. What is it that finally leads Paul to know for sure what he is to do?
10. According to v. 25, what two things does Paul hope to give the Philippians in their faith walk?
11. Read **Philippians 1:27-28**. Why is *the way the Philippians conduct themselves* of so much importance to Paul?
12. Why would standing firm in the one Spirit & striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without fear be *a sign to those who are being destroyed*?
13. Read **Philippians 1:29-30**. Why do you think Paul makes *suffering for Christ* sound like a blessing?
14. What will you remember most from this message?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Psalm 145:8-14** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
 1. Read **Psalm 145:8**. When you consider our sinful nature, how does reading this verse make you feel?
 2. Read **Psalm 145:9**. After reading this verse, list some adjectives you might use to describe God.
 3. Read **Psalm 145:10**. How well do you think you've done in living this verse out? What might we do to truly *bless* God?
 4. Read **Psalm 145:11-12**. Lay out a plan that could make you effective at doing what these two verses discuss.
 5. Read **Psalm 145:13**. Why is this verse such good news for believers?
 6. Read **Psalm 145:14 [including the two lines in brackets]**. Explain what the two lines in brackets mean to you, then explain what the final two lines mean to you.

- II. Next read **Matthew 5:43-48**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions.
 1. Read **Matthew 5:43-45**. What great things might happen if we actually *loved our enemies and prayed for those who persecute us*?
 2. Explain how understanding the last sentence of **Matthew 5:45** might make it easier to *love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us*.
 3. Read **Matthew 5:46**. This verse assumes we *love our family members*. How do you think God feels about people who don't even love their own family?
 4. Read **Matthew 5:47**. According to this verse, what should we be doing for all people?
 5. Read **Matthew 5:48**. Describe how we would attempt to live this verse out?
 6. Are we going to be perfectly successful?
 7. How will merely attempting to live this way greatly benefit us in our walk with Christ?

- III. Read **Philippians 1:18b-30**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
 1. Read **Philippians 1:18b-19**. In what does Paul choose to rejoice?
 2. What two things does Paul believe will enable him to know *deliverance*?
 3. To what two different things might *deliverance* refer?

4. Read **Philippians 1:20**. In your own words, tell me what Paul is saying in this verse.
5. Read **Philippians 1:21**. What does Paul mean when he says, “*To live is Christ?*”
6. What does Paul mean when he says, “*To die is gain?*”
7. Read **Philippians 1:22**. If Paul continues to go on living in the body, why will *his labor be fruitful?*
8. Why is it so hard for Paul to know whether he prefers to live or to die and be with Christ?
9. Read **Philippians 1:23-26**. What is it that finally leads Paul to know for sure what he is to do?
10. According to v. **25**, what two things does Paul hope to give the Philippians in their faith walk?
11. Read **Philippians 1:27-28**. Why is *the way the Philippians conduct themselves* of so much importance to Paul?
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13. Read **Philippians 1:29-30**. Why do you think Paul makes *suffering for Christ* sound like a blessing?