Small Group Questions  
“Reasons to Rejoice”  
Philippians 4:10-20

**Previous message summary:** Paul wrote to the Philippians about the importance of agreeing with one another in the Lord, and if a disagreement ever occurs, how to fix the problem and how to prevent future disagreements.

**What we learned:** When we focus on excellent and praiseworthy things in life, we are able to look past our differences and find ways to get along with each other.

**Introduction**

1. Tell about an opportunity you had recently, or in the past, where you were able to help someone.
   a. Did you do it voluntarily or did you feel obligated?
   b. When you were finished, how did you feel about the whole experience?
   c. Was your ability to help someone a blessing to the other person, a blessing to you, or both?

**Discussion Questions**

**Read Philippians 4:10-23**

2. Paul is able to rejoice “greatly” because the Philippian church had remembered him and had gone out of their way help with a financial gift. Was Paul’s joy based in the gift, or was it based in the fact that he church was thinking of him?
   a. Have you ever been the recipient of an unexpected gift? Were you joyful for the gift? Why or why not?
   b. How does it make you feel knowing that someone is thinking of you when they give you a gift? Is this reality more important than the gift itself?
   c. When you have an opportunity to show concern for people, do you do it?

3. Paul mentions that he is not in need because he has learned to be content in every situation. How does Paul define contentment?
   a. What does it mean to be content? Have you experienced contentment in your life? What caused true contentment for you?
   b. How has Paul learned to be content? Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10; 11:23-28; 12:8-10; 1 Timothy 6:6-8.
   c. How does Paul’s view of contentment compare to the modern world’s view of contentment? Do you need to adopt Paul’s view of contentment in your life?

4. Paul mentions that he knows what it is like to be in need. Have you ever experienced true need?
   a. Is it hard to experience contentment when you have needs? What can we do in order to experience contentment in the midst of need?
   b. In verse 13, Paul says that he can “do all things through him who gives me strength.” What is the context of this verse? What does “all things” refer to in context?
   c. In times of need or plenty, have you been able to experience God’s strength in your life? How has that been a help in your times of need?
5. Paul mentions that the Philippian church has been faithful in their giving to Paul even when other churches chose not to give (vs 14-16). Is this a source of discouragement for Paul? Why was it important for the Philippian church to know the value of their giving to Paul’s ministry?
   a. Why was Paul excited about the Philippian church’s gift? Read verse 17. Was Paul’s desire for the church to give selfish or selfless?
   b. How does God respond when we make offerings to Him by giving? Read vs 18-19. How can this promise encourage you to give to the needs of others?
   c. When you give to meet the needs of God’s Kingdom, do you fear that your giving will leave you without enough to meet your own needs? Does this fear keep you from giving? Read Matthew 6:25-34.
   d. What is God’s promise to those who give to meet the needs within His Kingdom (verse 19)? Is there a difference between meeting our needs and giving us what we want?

6. Have you ever asked your church, your minister, or a missionary from your church what their needs are?
   a. Have you ever prayed about how you can be used by God to meet those needs?
   b. When you have been used by God to meet the needs of others, how has God’s promise to take care of you been displayed?
   c. Can you ever out-give God?

7. How can Paul’s attitude towards giving and his assurance to the Philippian church in response to their gift help you be a better giver? Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 and 9:6-15.

8. How has your relationship with Christ changed your attitude towards people, possessions and circumstances? How does this help to be faithful in giving? How does this help us to rejoice in our sacrifice for God’s Kingdom?

Challenge

Look for needs in God’s Kingdom that you can be used to meet. In doing so, you will be a blessing to others and be blessed as you sacrifice for God’s Kingdom.

Action

I will make a commitment to be faithful in giving this week. If I am not already doing so, I will give a gift to my church and strive to make this a regular part of my act of worship. I will trust God to meet my needs as I give to God’s Kingdom.

Next Steps:

- I need to learn the secret of contentment.
- I resolve to look to Christ for daily strength.
- I want my life to be a fragrant and acceptable offering which pleases God.
- I will trust God to meet my needs (not my greeds).
- I need to develop a heart of giving

Much like Paul’s partnership with the church in Philippi, we are supporting and sending Russell and Emily Clum to start a new church in Portland, Oregon. We’d like to invite you to pray for this new project and partner with us in this exciting, but challenging new endeavor.