

Life Group Lesson 1

Know Your Story - Philippians 1:1-2

PRESS ON

together

Big Idea

From Sunday: No matter what happens in life, know your story of God's grace and peace for you and for all.

For Today: Live your story others with grace and peace from God.

Icebreaker question: Think of a significant relationship in your life with a friend or spouse. How did God lead you two to meet? What helped you become friends? How have you been able to persevere together in your relationship?

Have you ever read the book of Philippians before? What do you remember? How has the book influenced your faith journey?

If you have not read the book of Philippians before, where are you needing to persevere with joy in life today?

Video

This 14-minute video features Pastor Burkey telling the back story to our study "Press On Together", then introducing a video from the Bible Project with an overview of the book of Philippians.

As the Bible Project gave an overview of the book of Philippians, what are 3 ideas/concepts that stuck out for you?

Read Philippians 1:1-2

In verse 1, Paul identifies himself and Timothy as "servants of Christ Jesus". Another meaning for the word servant, perhaps more literal is slave. Think of the difference between being a servant and being a slave. . A servant is free to work for whomever he wishes; a slave is bought and purchased—completely and totally owned by a master. Paul and Timothy are thus to be thought of as "slaves/servants of Christ Jesus".

As you consider your relationship with Jesus, when is it more like a servant? Like a slave? Far apart from Him and others? Closely connected to Him and others?

In verse 1, Paul identifies his readers "to all the saints". 5 times in these first 8 verses Paul uses the word all. He's building a case for unity in this book. He's reminding us that we are stronger when we are knit together in Christ. When is a time you were part of a team or group effort that made a difference?

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The word Saints reminds us that the team God places us on is not filled with perfect people, but people made holy by what Jesus Christ has done and have been set apart for a holy purpose. As you think about Christ Lutheran Church, what holy purpose do you see God setting us apart for in this season of our church's and community's life? Where do you see God has placed you for your part in this season of our church's and community's life?

In verse 2, Paul leads off with a favorite combo of words to his readers: "Grace and peace".

Grace

God's undeserved favor—his loving-kindness shown to sinners whereby he saves them and gives them strength to live for Him. Grace is a favor done without expectation of return. Grace is the absolutely free expression of the love of God finding only motive in the benevolence and bounty of God.

Peace

The Greek word is Eirene meaning "every kind of good". Paul also has in mind the Hebrew word for peace, Shalom – God working life completely together to God's plan and empowered by God's love.

Dream for a moment, what would life be like with such grace and peace at work in your life the past 24 hours? What might stay the same? What might have changed?

Who shows you grace and peace? To whom do you show grace and peace?

What if everything we did was done with grace and peace? With your close friend/spouse? At work? With a foe/enemy? In our community?

Action Steps

Each day seek to identify moments you live with grace and peace. To express grace, you show God's love in a practical way with no expectation of return. To express peace is to work good in someone's life, to recognize and live out God's love for them.

Press On Together Prayer

As you close in prayer, I invite you to share with your group, and then take turns praying 2 prayers.

1. A Prayer of Gratitude: Thank you God for ...
2. A Prayer of Grace: Grace: God, I (or ?) need Your grace (help) to ...