

Life-Sharing Lesson 1 Philippians 4:10-20

1. When do you usually feel the best about yourself?
2. What have you been truly thankful for in the past month?
3. What do you think causes some people to be more thankful than others?

Philippians 4:10-20 (NIV)

¹⁰ I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength. ¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

¹⁷ Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. ¹⁸ I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

4. What are some reasons God puts people on our hearts, and we just start thinking about them?
5. What takes place on the inside of us when people go out of their way to do something for us, that we know they did not have to do, and certainly did not owe us anything in the first place?

6. How do you think Paul felt being in prison and all of a sudden receiving a gift from the Philippian church?

7. Why is contentment a necessary part of thanksgiving?

8. What does contentment look like, when you're in prison having done nothing wrong?

9. Are you willing to know what it's like to be hungry and content for the cause of Christ? How can you tell?

10. How does a lack of contentment contribute to us backsliding in our walk with Christ?

11. When is contentment not a good thing?

12. When most people are saying "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", do you really think they are saying God if I have to be poor, then I can be happy poor for the cause of Christ, but if I have to be rich, then I can be happy rich for the cause of Christ".

13. What kind of circumstances do you find it the most difficult to be in for an extended period of time?

14. What might God be trying to teach us during those moments in which we let our attitudes get bent out of shape, instead of seeking something for which to be thankful in the situation?

15. Why was Paul excited about the Philippians?

16. Why do you think God requires a step of faith of giving on our part, before releasing a blessing in our own lives?

17. If God meets all of our needs, then why are some of us still poor and broke?

18. Why not plan to bless someone anonymously this month, and see what it does to you as well as to the other person?

Life-Sharing Lesson 2 How Thankful Are You For The 2nd Coming
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Revelations 13:15-18

1. Was there ever a situation in which you were thankful in advance that you knew when someone was going to surprise you with something?

2. What's an important factor of a thief being successful?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NIV)

¹ Now, brothers and , about times and dates we do not need to write to you,

² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

⁵ You are all sons and daughters of the light and sons and daughters of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.

⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.

⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

3. If Jesus said that no one knows the day nor the hour of his return, why do people spending so much time trying to figure it out?

4. Why do you think Jesus wanted us to think of him coming as a thief?

5. What's the difference between being a child of the day and a child of the night?
6. How do we sleep as believers as opposed to staying awake?
7. Why is it important to exercise self-control? When are we most likely to lose control?
8. We hear a lot about the love of God, but not much about the wrath of God? How do you explain to people the reality of God's judgment and punishment?
9. If God is trying to save us from wrath, why do you think so many people reject what God has to offer to them?
10. Why do you think the Bible refers to believers who have died as being asleep as opposed to being dead?
11. Do you think we will have to give an account to God for our sins that we have confessed and asked to be forgiven of before we died? Why or why not?

Revelation 13:15-18 (NIV)

¹⁵ He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. ¹⁶ He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right

hand or on his forehead, ¹⁷ so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.

¹⁸ This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

12. If God did not expect us to know when Jesus would return, why does the Bible tell us what will happen in the future with the Anti-Christ and the mark of the beast?

13. What in our world today could be interpreted as moving toward fulfillment of this prophecy in Revelations?

14. If you knew Jesus was definitely coming tomorrow, what would you do today? Who would you try harder to reach for Christ before Jesus arrived?

15. Do you think it would be more stressful or less stressful knowing a week in advance the date that Jesus would return?

16. What do you want to be doing when Jesus comes back?

Life-Sharing Lesson 3—Being Thankful For What God Is Doing Philippians 1:3-11

1. What's one thing God has done for you lately that you are thankful for now?

Philippians 1:3-11 (NIV)

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

2. Who's a person who made a difference in your life and each time you think about the person, you are thankful for what the person did? Did the person know he/she was having such a tremendous influence in your life?

3. Who is a person for whom you are thankful here at New Life At Calvary and why are you thankful for that person?

4. What is a ministry for which you are thankful here at New Life At Calvary and why is it a blessing to you?

5. What is the connection between praying for someone or a ministry and being thankful for it?

6. How are we in partnership with each other in ministry at New Life At Calvary?

7. Why should you be most thankful for verse 1:6 in the passage above?

8. Why is God committed to completing the work that God began in us?

9. Why is it important for us to know that God began the work in our walk with the Lord rather than us simply choosing to follow God?

10. Paul is in prison. Why does he seem to be so joyful and confident in this passage of Scripture?

11. What do you think it means for us to have a love which is focused by knowledge and insight?

12. Have you ever had a situation in which you tried to demonstrate the love of Christ, and somehow it did not work out in the way that you planned it would?

13. If we have the Holy Spirit of truth, why do we still fail to discern what is best for us in given situations?

14. What is it for a believer to be pure and blameless until the day of Christ? Can we actually be without sin in our lives?

15. Which goal is better, “to walk away from sin” or “to walk closer to Jesus?” Which goal do we try to practice more often? Which goal leads us to verse 11 of being filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes from Christ?

