

HOW SPIRITUAL GROWTH HAPPENS (DISCIPLE 10K)

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- Philippians 2:12-13 ESV

REACH ONE

Getting to know people and helping people get to know Jesus.

As we continue growing in the habit of intentionally going out of our way to see people, carve out some discussion time to let group members share how they took a step towards others during the past week. It doesn't matter if it's small (learning their barista's name) or big (getting to share Jesus with someone), celebrating little wins like these can go a long way into making this part of our daily rhythms and lifestyle.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Think of a time when you grew together with someone else – what drove that growth?

SERMON RECAP

God's Work and Our Work:

- God works for us.
- God works in us.
- We work with God.
- We work with others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

- 1) Read Philippians 2:12-13 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passages or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What key phrases and commands do you see in verse 12?
 - Who is the object of verse 13 and why is that important?
 - What are the key promises of verse 13?
 - How would you summarize Philippians 2:12-13 in your own words?

Interpretation: What does this passage mean?

- 1) God Works For Us – “Salvation is the entire process of God delivering His people from the penalty, power, and presence of sin.” (Philippians 2:12 and Philippians 1:6)
 - What did God do for us when He *justified* us in an instant?

- What is God doing for us as He *sanctifies* us over the course of our lives?
 - What will God do for us when He *glorifies* us in an instant?
 - Why is salvation a God process rather than a human process? (see Philippians 1:6)
- 2) God Works In Us (Philippians 2:13 and Romans 7:18-19)
- Why are conflicting desires at war within us? (see Romans 7:18-19)
 - How can receiving new desires transform us?
 - How can receiving new, supernatural (Holy Spirit) power transform us?
 - Why is transformation an inside-out process rather than an outside-in process?
- 3) We Work With God (Philippians 2:12, 2 Peter 1:3-7, and 1 Timothy 4:7)
- What do you try to do when you work out physically?
 - What does it mean to work out spiritually? (see 2 Peter 1:3-7)
 - What does it mean “to work out your salvation with fear and trembling”? (see 1 Timothy 4:7)
 - Why must we work out our salvation rather than just having it and letting it sit?
- 4) We Work With Others (Philippians 2:12-13 and Ephesians 4:15-16)
- How is spiritual growth a group project in the church? (see Ephesians 4:15-16)
 - How is growing together more impactful than growing individually?
 - How is forming people different than just attracting people?
 - Why does God want His church to grow together and in unison rather than to grow alone, separately?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

- 1) Trust God With Your Salvation!
- When you were justified, what changed for you?
 - What evidence shows that you truly accepted Christ as your Savior?
 - How would others know that you are a believer?
 - What could you do this week to share the good news of your salvation with others?
- 2) Work Out Your Salvation!
- As you are being sanctified, what is changing in you?
 - What conflicting desires might be warring within you?
 - How might you use the power within you to grow spiritually?
 - Where do you most need to rely more on God and to grow right now?
- 3) Depend On God’s Help!
- When you think about being glorified someday, what scares you and what excites you?
 - What resources does God give you to aid your transformation?
 - What practical work do you have to do as God pedals with and alongside you?
 - What could you do this week to “train yourself for godliness”?
- 4) Work With One Another!
- How is working together greater and more fulfilling than working alone?
 - How can you be more intentional about growing with others?
 - What skills or gifts do you possess to intentionally help others to grow?
 - What steps could your community take this week to grow and strengthen one another and others?