



RENEWED // WEEK 5

Online Connect Groups Questions

Become More Like Him: Part 1 // Philippians 4:1-13 // July 19th, 2020

Introduction

We've moved into the third section of our RENEWED Vision: Coming together, to know Jesus, **become more like Him** and help others do the same. Jeff led us through Philippians 4, seeking to help us understand the sufficiency of Christ in a such a way that we can walk into anything He allows in our lives.

Getting to Know Each Other *(Suggested time: 30 min)*

Begin your time together by learning more about each other. Open up and have some fun!

→ If you could play any instrument, what would it be? How come?

→ What is one of your fondest memories as a child?

Getting Started

Begin transitioning into group discussion.

- 1) Invite someone to open the group in prayer. Here are a few potential prayer items:
 - a. For God to reveal His truth and love for the group
 - b. For openness to each other and God's voice
 - c. For friendships to deepen and grow
- 2) This week read the passages as you cover the corresponding question.

Study Questions *(Suggested time: 40 min)*

Please complete these questions before your group meets.

- 1) Jeff stated that being a Christian is not primarily about completing a list of activities but is intended to be a journey of genuine transformation. **How do you generally define what it means to be a Christian (completing a list of activities, following Jesus, doing the right things, obeying God, genuine transformation, something else)? What influences have helped form your perspective?**

- 2) **Read Philippians 4:6-9.** Paul instructs us not to be anxious, but to present our requests to God.
 - a. What's been your experience with anxious thoughts and prayer? Have you experienced the peace Paul discusses in these verses?

 - b. Jeff mentioned that "presenting our requests to God *with thanksgiving*" is one of the keys to experiencing the peace Paul is talking about here. **How does thanksgiving change our mindset about our worries?**

 - c. How does the idea of setting our minds on what is true, honorable, right... (vs. 8) help us experience the peace of God?

- 3) **Read Philippians 4:10-12.** Paul talks about contentment and rest in these verses.
 - a. What's been your experience with contentment? Do you find it easy to be content? Is contentment a struggle for you?

 - b. It's been said that one of the keys to contentment is awareness. When I become aware of the new iPhone, I'm now discontent with my current iPhone. In a similar fashion, my awareness of others' suffering/needs can help me be content with what I have, so I can give to others. **What do you think of this idea? What would it mean to put this idea of contentment into practice?**

- 4) **Read Philippians 4:13.** As Jeff demonstrated in his message, this verse has been misused in many ways over the years from winning the championship as a football team to accomplishing all your dreams.
- a. What does the context show Paul actually means by this verse? Have you experienced this in your life?

 - b. The verses in Philippians 4 flow together to culminate in verse 13. **How would consistently experiencing peace (instead of anxiousness) and contentment (instead of always needing something more) change your experience of this verse?**

Prayer *(Suggested time: 10 min)*

Take a few moments to prepare a prayer request. What did the discussion cause you to notice about your own relationship with Jesus?

A significant part of “coming together” is being open and honest with our lives. Sitting in a group of people for prayer may be new or it may be familiar to you. Whether or not you choose to verbalize your prayer, everyone is a participant in sharing this time before God together.