



**CONNECT:**

- Were you on a team growing up, what did it mean to you?
- If you are still in touch with them, what and where are they at in life?

**PRAISE:**

- Think of people that God has placed in your life who are faithful and God-honouring - Praise him for the example they have been in leading you closer to Jesus.

**SCRIPTURE:**

- Philippians 1:3 - 11

**CONVERSATIONS**

- In Philippians 1:5 Paul thanks the Philippian church for their partnership in the gospel. The word translated 'partnership' is the Greek word for 'fellowship.'
  - What is a 'fellowship' in this context? (A fellowship is a group of deeply devoted friends whose friendship has flourished through the pursuit of a common cause or goal.)
  - How is that definition different from the common understanding of fellowship that most Christians have?
  - What are the benefits and costs of being part of a fellowship?
  - The opposite of being part of a fellowship is to approach Christianity from a consumer mindset. What does it mean to have a consumer mindset when it comes to following Jesus? What are the benefits and costs of this approach to following Jesus.
- Read Philippians 1:7 and 29 - 30.
  - How can suffering be perceived as experiencing grace?
  - How does suffering together produce strong, deep friendships? Do you have a personal example from your life?
- Read Philippians 1:6. Why is this important for a church that is on mission to be reminded of this verse?
- Read Philippians 1:9 - 11. Paul's prayer for the Philippians was they would love more, know Jesus more and gain more wisdom – in other words that they would continue to grow spiritually.
  - What are some things that would slow or stop someone's spiritual growth?
  - How could a person jumpstart their spiritual growth if they 'don't feel like it' even though they know that they should?
  - What would it look like to pray for the spiritual growth of the people in your world that are important to you?

Recently we have been encouraging you to adopt a new practice, what's a practice you've tried that has brought new growth in your life? (If you aren't sure - what's a practice you'd want to try?)

Rd Philippians: 10-11 What happens if we are not maturing?

**PRACTICE** (decide for yourself an area you commit to grow in this week or semester and share with your Community )

- *Study: This week, read through the book of Philippians and look for any time Paul talks about the “church” or the “fellowship” - Consider what you notice about what a healthy church looks like.*
- *Reflection: Think about where your faith has cost you something. Consider how it felt, how you responded, and how it’s changed your faith. Take time to pray about or journal through the question: “What could my faith cost me in the future? Is Jesus worth the sacrifice to me?”*
- *Prayer: In your prayer this week, invite God to reveal the spaces where you give into “consumer Christianity” - write them down or, if you’d like, confess these areas to a trusted friend.*

**PRAYER**

- For spiritual growth in one another’s lives – for more love in difficult situations, for knowing Jesus more in personal ways and for wisdom for the gray areas of life
- For people at Ridge Church whom God is calling to step deeper into community and deeper into following and serving Him.
- For those folks in our STARTING POINT and TRUTH & EVIDENCE classes, that they would come to know Jesus and choose to follow & trust him.
- For those struggling with COVID, including those who are sick, frontline workers that are struggling with stress and fatigue and for businesses in our CITY who are being hard hit by restrictions.

