

Community Group Study Guide
For the week of February 16, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

Men's Softball Starts Sunday, February 21, 6-7pm

Women's Night Of Gathering, Sunday, February 23, 7-8:45pm

Foster Parent Orientation, Wednesday, February 26, 7-8pm

Please check out www.stfchurch.com/events to register for the above events.

Community Groups Service Project is coming up! We will be having a Church-wide Serve Day, February 29, 2020, 9:00am - 2:00pm

We'll be combining a family-friendly time of fun and fellowship with service at one of several locations in South Tampa, and we need your help to make it happen. Please discuss this a group and look online for details at www.stfchurch.com/events

- Just Elementary School -- Basketball courts painting and restoration, Compassion Center
- Stewart Middle School -- Basketball courts painting and restoration
- Home -- Yard work and beautification
- A Woman's Place -- Property cleanup and interior decorating
- Created Café -- Meeting with trafficked/homeless women

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What is our default vision based on? (i.e. flipping a coin, spinning a dial, asking Alexa to flip a coin, drawing out of a hat)? What is your typical decision-making process?

2. Who is your "go-to" for help/advice/wisdom?

3. From this weekend's sermon, which one statement, point or insight was most helpful, challenging or even confusing to you personally?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Many of the books in the New Testament were letters Paul wrote to churches that he had started. In these letters he included a number of his prayers for the church and its members. From these prayers we can get great insight into what God's will and desire is for our lives. As you read each passage, jot down what stands out to you most about what Paul prays for and how he wants us to live.

Ephesians 1:15-23 *New International Version (NIV)*

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Philippians 1:9-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

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 for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. ¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Which of the things Paul prayed for would you most like others to pray for you to have or experience?

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 says God's will for us is our sanctification. Where do you see evidence in your life that you are becoming more like Jesus?

3. At which level do you your relationships normally stop? Information, proximity, vulnerability, accountability, or generosity? Why do you think they tend to stop at that level? What is the biggest obstacle to them progressing?

TAKING IT HOME

1. What is your default response when other people are vulnerable? Do you run? Ignore? Judge? Fix? Listen? Something else?

2. How can this group pray for you?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Use some of the member's answers from discussion time as prayer requests for the entire group. Keep the prayers short and simple.