

Life Group/Bible Study Questions
Week following 26/04/26.: Philippians 1:1-11
Abounding Love

Introduction: Paul writes this letter while under house arrest, possibly facing death. And yet, instead of focusing on his situation, he writes with warmth, joy, and deep concern for others. It's a powerful glimpse into how he prays.

How have you been able to apply last week's study in your life over the past week?

Read Philippians 1:1-11, then answer the following questions:

- a. ***"Pastor on house arrest faces new trial for sharing faith"*** (IMB, 08/06/21) Imagine you were stuck in prison unjustly, with nothing but time to pray. After the first few "Lord, get me out of here" prayers, what do you think your prayers would look like?
- b. (v3) ***"I thank my God every time I remember you."*** How often do you thank God for other people other than close family and friends? How might our prayers change if we paused to thank God for others before asking for anything?
- c. (v4) ***"In all my prayers for ~~some~~ all of you, I always pray with joy."*** Be honest - does "joy" describe your prayers for others, or something closer to "effort" or "duty"? How might regularly praying for someone change how you feel about them?
- d. (v7-8) ***"I have you in my heart... God can testify how I long for all of you..."*** Paul's genuine love for people shapes the way he prays. How might our prayers change if we allowed ourselves to care more deeply for others? What might that look like?
- e. (v9) ***"This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight..."*** How is this different from the kinds of things we often pray? What does it mean for love to grow in both *knowledge* and *depth of insight*? What would that growth in love look like for us as a fellowship at UBC?
- f. (v10) ***"So that you may be able to discern what is best..."*** Do you tend to make decisions more by instinct, pressure, or prayerful reflection? What sort of decisions or areas of life might we need help to "discern what is best"?
- g. (v20) ***"and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ..."*** How often do we pray for character rather than outcomes? How does the idea of being "ready" for Christ shape the way we live now?
- h. (v11) ***"Filled with the fruit of righteousness... to the glory and praise of God."*** What would a "fruitful" life look like for you? How often do we think about God's glory as the goal of our lives - and our prayers?

Prayer

- a. ***"I thank my God every time I remember you."*** (v3) Spend time thanking God for UBC, for our pastors and leadership, for one another and for our church family.
- b. Pray that our love would grow, not just in feeling, but in depth, wisdom, and action.