



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of January 22, 2024

Read Philippians 4:10-23 and open with prayer.

1. Americans are constantly searching for the “secrets” to successful weight-loss, financial security, happy marriages, obedient children, advancing careers, or secure retirements. What is it about human nature that we’re always on the hunt for “secrets” and “10 steps” to success?

Is success in the Christian life found by uncovering “insider secrets” or obeying the plain truth of God’s Word? Discuss and explain your answers. (see also Joshua 1:7-8 and Psalm 119:105)

2. Even though Paul had endured much hardship as a traveling evangelist, teacher, and church planter (and even though he was presently in prison) he was still experiencing contentment. How would you define contentment in your own words? (see also 1 Timothy 6:8) As you dig deeper into verses 10-13, what is Christian contentment?
3. What is the true context of Philippians 4:13? Does the promise of this verse have to do with weightlifting, running marathons, scoring touchdowns, or doing anything hard in life? If you had to explain this verse (correctly) to a Christian who was confused, how would you explain it?
4. Christians have often described their personal stewardship with the three “T’s”: *time* (involvement), *talents* (gifts/abilities), and *treasure* (money/resources). Look at Philippians 4:14-18. What were some of the ways that the Philippian church invested in the gospel message and the kingdom of God? Why is it a good thing to give money to promote gospel advancement? What are some of the places and ways you can give financially to invest in gospel advancement?
5. The Philippian believers were not extraordinarily rich or outrageously wealthy. Yet they gave with love and sacrifice to advance the message of Jesus. What is the promise of Philippians 4:19 for believers who give to God from the heart? What are some reasons you can trust God to meet your needs? Tell of a time when you gave to God in faith—and He met your needs in return.
6. Paul’s final greetings highlighted the connection between Christians in Rome and Christians in Philippi. Christians are more than just acquaintances or friends— we’re a united family because of Jesus (Ephesians 2:19-20). How does our connection in Jesus supercede ethnicity, education, and economics? Is amazing grace limited to one group of people—one skin color—one nationality? Explain your answer.
7. Pastor Ryan quoted Elisabeth Elliot who famously said: *“The secret to joy is Christ in me, not me in different circumstances.”* Are you facing any difficult circumstances at the moment? How can trusting in Jesus keep you sane and secure— so you don’t lose your joy?