

AMPLIFY our Weekly Message / 4.25.21

These **discussions** and recommended **spiritual practices** are designed to help **AMPLIFY** the impact of our Sunday morning teaching from God's Word. Choose the ones that fit best in your context.

Sunday Discussion

This is designed to be an extension of our Sunday worship service. Take a few minutes to have this conversation with those who watched the worship service with you. If you watched alone, give another friend who watched alone a call and have the conversation over the phone.

What is someone you look up to and have learned from?
Share something that was said or sung in the worship service that resonated with you.
Take a moment to pray with and for the person with whom you just shared.

Daily Discussion

These are intended for conversation around the dinner table, in the car, or before bed at night (designed for ages 7 and up). Start each conversation by reading the passage listed.

Monday: Philippians 3:17-20. Who is someone that you know who models living like Jesus? What are some Christlike things about them?

Tuesday: Philippians 3:17-20. What are ways in which you see people not living like Jesus? To what extent can you get drawn into following that example?

Wednesday: Philippians 3:19-20. In your own words, describe these two different trajectories.

Thursday: Consider this explanation of a spiritual friend: Whether the friendship is for a brief season or for decades, spiritual friends help one another focus on the inner part of the journey. While accountability to do the right things is part of it, the primary thing is aligning the inner life to the will of God. It is more about loving surrender than willful obedience, more about direction than perfection, more about the journey than the destination. Share about how you've experienced something of that with someone.

Friday: Regarding the explanation of a spiritual friend above, what might God be calling you to do in order to more deeply experience that with someone?

Saturday: What part of Philippians has been particularly meaningful to you recently?

Weekly Discussion

Spiritual friends are those who intentionally move into one another's life to spur one another on in spiritual growth for the Glory of God.

1. What's something you've been talking to God about a lot recently?
2. How has God encouraged, challenged or corrected you recently?
3. What's a way that you believe God has used you recently or wants to use you this week?

What follows are some spiritual practices that we believe could feed your soul and advance His Kingdom this week.

An Inward-Focused Spiritual Practice

Daily spiritual discipline – Write down your faith story and then tell your story to another person. Prayerfully meditate on Psalm 139:23-24 or Psalm 19:12-14. Ask the Lord to lead you to one person who you might be able to form a spiritual friendship with. Listen for the Spirit's reply for the next few days and then act when He speaks.

Explanation of Spiritual Friends

Spiritual friends accompany one another along the journey of faith. They meet you where you are and accept you as you are. You meet them where they are and accept them as they are. And you walk together, helping one another keep your eyes on Jesus.

Whether the friendship is for a brief season or for decades, spiritual friends help one another focus on the inner part of the journey. While accountability to do the right things is part of it, the primary thing is aligning the inner life to the will of God. It is more about loving surrender than willful obedience, more about direction than perfection, more about the journey than the destination.

And in a most mysterious and beautiful way, like the disciples walking together on the road to Emmaus, spiritual friends are never alone. Whether or not they recognize Him, the Lord Jesus walks with them warming their hearts and guiding their steps along the way.

An Outward-Focused Spiritual Practice

Seek to love those God places in your path. Be intentional to share Jesus's love through word or deed with them.

With the love of Jesus in view, reach out to a neighbor or co-worker or someone in need.

Get involved with one of the Shalom of the City outreach initiatives:

<https://www.covenantpc.org/ministries/shalom-for-the-city/>

Get on our weekly prayer email and start lifting these prayers and praises up to the Lord.