

# House Groups – Summer 2007

## 1. Philippians 1.1 – 11

### Welcome

- If you had a day that you could spend doing what you liked (and money no object – within reason), how would you spend it?

### Word

#### *Read Philippians 1.1 – 11*

1. What do you think makes a ‘saint’ (v1)? Do you consider yourself a ‘saint’?
2. Paul mentions ‘overseers and deacons’. Who function in these roles in our church? Should it be more than one person?
3. Who are you ‘in partnership in the gospel’ with (v5)? How might we develop that relationship?
4. What ‘good work’ that God will bring to completion (v6) is Paul talking about? How might this encourage us?
5. How can God’s grace be shown whilst in chains (v7)? Do you ever feel like that?
6. How might our love abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight (v9)? What does the church need to provide to help this process in you?
7. If there a difference between what is ‘best’ (v10) and what is ‘good’? How might we tell that difference?
8. What is the fruit of righteousness (v11)? How might we encourage it to be shown in our lives?

### Worship

Spend a few moments in quiet, or with a quiet piece of music playing, thinking of what you might like to give thanks to God for at the moment. Take some time to celebrate these things with one another. Spend a few moments in prayer thanking God, and close this part by singing a song of praise to God – use a CD as backing to help the singing!

### Witness

What event will you be putting on this term that you can invite non-Christians to? Write it down so that we can share it with the wider church for prayer support.

Share any individual prayer needs you may have and pray about them.

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## 2. Philippians 1.12 – 30

### Welcome

- When have you felt in chains? Or hemmed in ?

### Word

#### *Read Philippians 1.12 – 30*

1. How can being in chains help the gospel?
2. Can you tell why people preach the gospel?
3. Do you think it makes a difference?
4. Can people preach something other than the gospel?
5. The people's prayers did not seem to have been answered, yet Paul says they have. What do you make of this?
6. Paul seemed to have utter faith in God despite his situation. How can we be more like this?

### Worship

Light a candle and think of those you know are in some kind of chains- Physically, spiritually, emotionally. Spend some time praying for them

### Witness

Share any ideas about what you think you as a group could do to reach out to those in chains. Can you plan an event or activity to raise others knowledge and conscience about this issue?

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## 3. Philippians 2.1 – 11

### Welcome

- When you're feeling a bit down, what do you do to cheer yourself up?

### Word

#### *Read Philippians 2.1 – 11*

1. Paul lists three things in v1 to do with our relationship with God. How can we encourage any (or all) of these in our own relationship with God?
2. What does Paul mean by being 'like-minded' (v2) and how can we become more 'like-minded'?
3. How can we cultivate an attitude that values others more (v3)?
4. How did Christ use his position as God (v6, 7)?
5. Would God expect us to be obedient to death (v8)? How might we live in the light of this?
6. How might we more fully show that Christ is Lord in our lives (v11)?

### Worship

Draw a big cross on a large piece of paper. Give everyone a 'post-it' note. Put some quiet music on, and give people a few minutes to ask God what it is that they need to do in their lives to show his Lordship more clearly. It might be something no-one else will be aware of, or it might be obvious. When they're ready, get people to write this thing on the *sticky* side of the post-it note, and stick it on the cross so no one can see what they've written. When everyone has done, sing a song of praise to God together.

### Witness

We're hoping to have a parish summer fair on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Plan what your group can do as part of it – provide a stall, entertainment, food, or whatever. Who might you invite? Pray for these people as a group on a regular basis between now and then.

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## 4. Philippians 2.12 – 29

### Welcome

- If you were stranded on a desert island, what luxury item or piece of music would you take?

### Word

#### *Read Philippians 2.12 – 29*

1. What does it mean to work out our salvation (v12)?
2. What does Paul mean by ‘in fear and trembling’ (v12)? Is it something to be frightened of?
3. How would you define ‘grumbling’ (v14)?
4. Is it ever right to grumble? If so, when?
5. Paul was prepared to be ‘poured out’ for God and the Philippians, and told them to rejoice in his suffering (v17). When should we rejoice in others’ suffering?
6. How might we help others in their suffering?
7. How might we encourage people in Christ Church in faith?
8. How might we encourage other local churches and churches around the world in their faith?

### Worship

Paul Robinson is on short term mission in Africa at the moment. Write a letter or email to support and encourage him. Then pray for him.

### Witness

What is your group going to do on July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Christ Church garden party?

Plan details, and let Karen know.

Pray for one another, and those you are concerned about.

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## 5. Philippians 3.1 – 14

### Welcome

- What is the thing that you have done that you are most proud of?

### Word

#### *Read Philippians 3.1 – 14*

1. How much do we rejoice in the Lord?
2. How can we encourage more rejoicing?
3. What things do we put our trust in that we should consider ‘garbage’ (v8)?
4. Do you know the ‘power of his [Jesus] resurrection’ (v10)? How might we help others to know this power?
5. In what ways do we ‘participate in his [Christ’s] sufferings’ (v10)?
6. Is Paul unsure about being raised (v11)?
7. How can we ‘press on’ to take hold of what Christ has for us (v12)?
8. What do we need to ‘forget’ in order to move forward (v13)?

### Worship

Place a bowl of water in a central place. Give everyone a small stone to hold. Put on some quiet background music, and spend a few minutes thinking about what God is calling you to let go of at the moment. When you are ready, imagine that the stone represents the thing that God is asking you to let go of, and then drop it in the bowl of water. As you listen to the music, imagine God has washed away whatever is now in the past, and is giving you a new start tonight. Thank him as appropriate.

### Witness

Check all the preparations for what you are doing as a group for the church Garden Party are in place. Spend some time praying for one another, and especially for Fountainhead Village, and the people from there who will come to the Garden Party.

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## 6. Philippians 3.15 – 4.3

### Welcome

- Who was your hero when you were younger?

### Word

#### *Read Philippians 3.15 – 4.3*

1. How might God make things clear to us (v16)?
2. Do we live up to what we have already attained (v17)? How might we better live up to it?
3. Who would make good role models for us as Christians (v17)? Why?
4. How would you recognise someone whose mind was set on earthly things (v19)?
5. Do we eagerly await Jesus' return (v20)?
6. What difference might it make if we did?
7. How can we stand firm in the Lord (v1)?
8. Do we always have to agree with other Christians about everything (v2)?

### Worship

Play the game 'Simon says...' Recognise where we are good at following others' example in the Christian life, and where we could be better. Spend a time in prayer asking for God's help in the areas you have identified.

### Witness

Begin to think about what your group is going to do over the summer period.

Will you carry on meeting as usual, or perhaps just organise a couple of social events. You might even invite some others to join you.

Pray for all those who need refreshment at this time, and pray for one another as usual.

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## 7. Philippians 4.4 – 23

### Welcome

- What place do you find most peaceful? Why?

### Word

#### *Read Philippians 4.4 – 23*

1. How evident is your gentleness (v5)? How can you make it more evident?
2. How do you stop being anxious about something (v6)?
3. How easily do you turn to pray about things (v6)?
4. How can we know more of God's peace (v7)?
5. Why might this peace pass all understanding?
6. What things does Paul have in mind that are noble, right... (v8)?
7. How can we learn to be content in any situation (v11)?
8. Does God meet all our needs (v19)?

### Worship

Put on some quiet music, light a candle, and spend a few minutes in peace and quiet, 'resting' in God's presence. At the end of the music, if you feel God has something to say, then share it with the group.

### Witness

What activity might your group be involved in that helps practically with some need in our community? Plan how you might actually go about it.