

Becoming

Becoming Willing (April 5th, 2020)

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-2 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank God for sending His son into this world to show us the way in which we were called to live in complete obedience to you! Thank Jesus for dying on the cross so that we could be filled with God's presence as He guides us with His Holy Spirit! As we shelter in place, pray that we would listen and obey the commands of God always remembering the hope of His kingdom and eternal life with Him! Finally, pray that the kingdom of Jesus would continue to transform this world plagued by the Coronavirus and would renew our hearts with God's love for those who are suffering!

Discussion: (45-60 minutes)

What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the eighth week of our series titled *Becoming*. Pastor Danny challenged us to become willing participants in God's kingdom work by striving to emulate Jesus' mindset of obedience and service to others. We were specifically directed to Paul's words in Philippians 2:3-11 so that we could be reminded of our call to serve others who are in desperate need as we trust in the hope of eternal life in God's kingdom!

"If you want to become willing to live for the good of others, start living for the good of others!" - Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions

Check-In: *Matthew 5:13-16* – Last week, our discussion challenged us to have a kingdom mindset during this time of suffering and become salt and light in our community. What were some of your observations as you leaned into becoming *kingdom minded* this week?

Study Tip: Our main text this week plays a central role in Paul's letter to the church in the Roman colony of Philippi. An important fact about this letter is that Paul is writing to the church while he was imprisoned (1:7, 13, 17). While we do not know exactly where he was imprisoned at the time, the text does tell us that Paul was preparing to face the possibility of persecution and death (1:20, 2:17). *Philippians 2:5-11* is thought of by many scholars as a hymn that was either written by Paul or part of an earlier church tradition. However, it comes as no coincidence that Paul would have included a hymn in the letter to Philippi. Why? As the Philippian church would have surely remembered, when Paul and Silas were imprisoned in Philippi, they began, "praying and singing hymns to God." As a result, the Lord responded with an earthquake, the jailor listening to the hymns was converted, and Paul and Silas were released (see Acts 16:25-40). In this study guide, challenge yourself to memorize the specific hymn of *Philippians 2:5-11* and reflect on the ways that God has been faithful in your lifetime!

- **Objective #1: Identify the skepticism about giving up your resources and/or your life.**

Primary Texts: Philippians 2:3-4 – In the introduction, Pastor Danny makes the statement, "With many of us there's a skepticism when it comes to giving our freedoms away." He then offers several examples of things and freedoms that we are being called to give away for the sake of others during this season. Do you feel this same skepticism in your life? Where do you have the hardest time releasing your life and your resources into the hands of others for the purpose of their well-being?

Supporting Texts: (Sacrifice) Matt. 10:38-39, 20:24-28; Mk. 10:17-27; Jn. 13:1-17

- **Objective #2: Learn how to emulate the obedient mindset of Jesus!**

Primary Texts: Philippians 2:5-8; – Next, Pastor Danny points out that in order to become willing participants in God's kingdom work, we need to emulate the obedient mindset of Jesus who knew his immense value, refused to serve himself, and committed to serving others. As an example, Pastor Danny points to the medical workers who are currently putting themselves directly in harm's way to serve others. What would it look like for you to emulate the attitude and the mindset of Jesus in this season? What are some of the fears that come along with this vision of complete obedience to God?

Supporting Texts: (Self-Value) Gen. 1:26-28; Psalm 8, 139:13-14; (Self-Denial and Service) Jn. 10:7-18; 15:12-14 2 Cor. 8:9, Gal. 5:13; 1 John 3:16

- **Objective #3: Identify starting points towards living for the good of others during COVID-19.**

Primary Texts: Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 12:1-2 – Finally, Pastor Danny points out that sacrificing everything makes sense when you believe that you will live forever in God's kingdom. With this in mind, Pastor Danny challenges us to recognize that when God gives you something, it's likely because He wants someone else to have it *through you!* Where are some of the places this week in which you can *start* living for the good of others? What has God placed in your life or in your hands right now that He might want to use to bless people *through you?*

Supporting Texts: (Go!) Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:6-8; Phil. 3:13-4:1

Closing Prayer: (5-10 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank Jesus for being the way, the truth, and the life in our world today! Ask that the Holy Spirit would reveal to us the courage we have received when our minds are set on His eternal kingdom! Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to transform our minds so that we would continue to recognize our own faulty beliefs and worldviews that hinder our progress toward becoming more like Jesus!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Stay up to date with our Coronavirus webpage: Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to 3Crosses.org/coronavirus

-Follow Along with our Pray Podcast: For the next 30 days, our challenge for you is to step into the prayer movement around 3Crosses by listening to our [Pray Podcast](#).

-Further Reading and Exploration! *Read 1 Peter* This book is a great way to engage with a 1st century church that was experiencing suffering at the hands of the Roman Empire. While the situations may be different than ours, the principles of endurance and suffering pop out in this text written by Peter, who was himself expecting to be persecuted at the hands of Nero and the Roman empire.

- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week! Pray that the members of your group would be willing to obey as they look to love their neighbor by serving those around them!