

# Recalculating...



## Small Group Study Guide

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Thank you for being willing to lead and care for people in your Small Group! This is not an easy task, but it is an important one. You are leading a group of people to help them engage in community, and encounter God together. This doesn't mean you have to be serious and solemn when you lead, it means that you get to help a group of people learn more of who God is, what He is about, and how we can follow God more fully in our life. This can be a fun and exhilarating adventure!

Below are some things that will help you in your role as the leader:

**Focus of the Series:** The Covid-19 Pandemic has forced all of us to Re-calculate the daily patterns of our lives. In this series, we are learning from Paul's willingness to Recalculate the priorities and methods of his ministry. We are doing this so that we can also apply these same principles to our lives as we Recalculate our pathway forward, given all of the changes that have fallen upon us during this Covid Shut-down period.

**Structure of the Study:** The format of the study is broken down into three sections (Share, Study, Symbolize), progressing from easy-conversational questions, exploring the Bible passages, to personal reflection and thought. There are plenty of questions from which to choose from. Do not feel pressured to have to get through every single question in the study. The study was specifically designed in order that you can pick and choose the questions that will be most effective in navigating the discussion. The ultimate goal is for the group to engage in discussion to better understand God's grace together. If there is good dialogue happening, and you only get through a few questions, that's great! If you need more questions to help move the group along, then feel free to use whatever you need.

Some Tips For Leading The Study:

Your role is to be a facilitator. You do not need to be the in-house expert of the Bible, you simply need to lead the group in good discussion. This means speaking less yourself, and giving as many people in your group as possible a chance to share their thoughts and insights.

Silence is OK! Don't get nervous if no one answers the question right away. If too much time goes by (say, 45 second), ask if you need to repeat the question, or if the question was clear.

It's OK if you or the group does not have an answer to a question. If someone asks a difficult question, and the group is unsure of the answer, it's ok to table the question

for a week in order to research the answer. Some of Apostle Paul's letters were responses to questions and problems in the church, and they waited months for an answer!

**Expect God to Show Up:** Most of your prep-time should be prayer-time. Ask God to be present in your group. Invite the Holy Spirit to be present in your group. Ask God to show you where He is working in your group. Pray for the challenging dynamics in the group. Allow God to lead your group's discussion by being open to what is coming to the surface in the discussion. Shepherd the group to engage with what God is doing. Pray that group members don't leave the same way they came!

**Honor Start/Stop Times.** Your group should agree together on when the group should start and end. Honor those times by beginning on-time, and manage the time so you don't go over.

## **Recalculating Study Guide: Week Seven**

### **SCRIPTURE: Philippians 4: 1-9**

**SHARE:** Get the group talking

1. Have you ever been pick-pocketed or had something stolen from you?
2. Pastor Paul mentioned in his sermon that anxiety can steal our joy and confidence. Can you think of a time that anxiety robbed you of joy/peace/or confidence?

**STUDY:** Get the group into the Bible

Overview: Paul is writing to the Philippian church while he is under house arrest. He is reminding the believers how they can be joyful and stand firm.

1. In verse 1, How does Paul feel toward the people to whom he is writing?
2. According to the passage, what attitudes of the women [Euodia and Syntyche] harm the church? How can unresolved disagreements be harmful in the church and in life in general?
3. Read Luke 10: 16-20 and Revelation 20: 11-15. How does knowing that your name is written in the Book of Life impact how you live?
4. What would someone marked by verses 4-6 look like?
5. Pastor Paul said "Trade anxiety for Trust." Read Matthew 6:25 and 1 Peter 5:7. Is there an area of your life that improved when you stopped worrying and started praying?

**SYMBOLIZE:** Get the group to reflect on their own life

1. Pastor Paul said it takes discipline to stay positive. What disciplines help you focus on what is good and true and right?

2. What good/true/right things will you fix your eyes on this coming week?