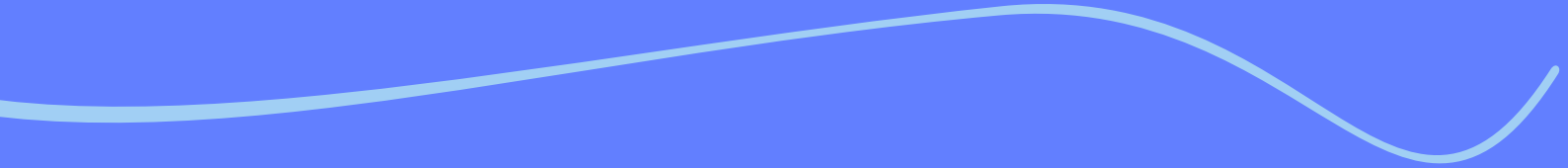


weekly small group
PHILIPPIANS
leader guide

WEEK 1

read chapter one



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

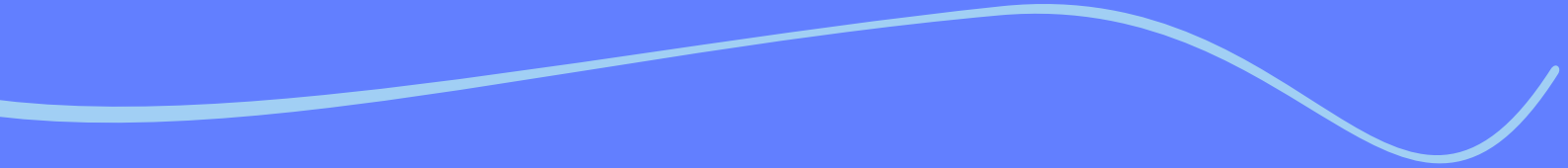
When have you experienced or received good news?
What was that experience like?

The book of Philippians carries a theme of joy throughout its chapters. What does joy mean to you? Share a significant time in your life where you've experienced joy.

What does it mean to be filled with the fruit of your salvation? What do you think it looks like to have the righteous character of Christ produced in your life? (verse 11)

WEEK 1

activity



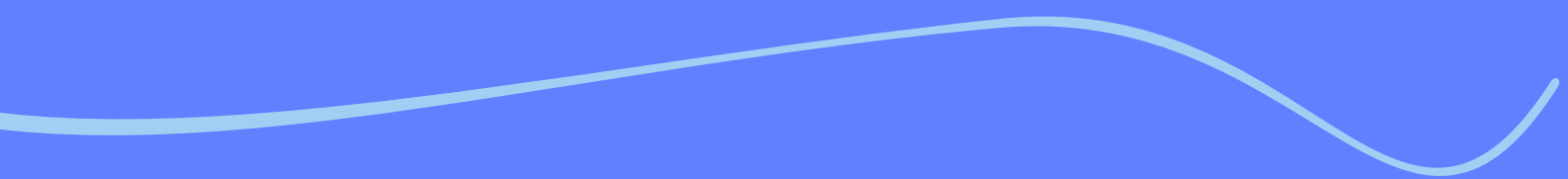
Materials needed: a large Sticky Note sheet and a marker

Question: What does it mean to live as citizens of heaven? What about to live as citizens of the world? What's the difference to you, if any? What feels like similarities between them? (verses 27-30)

Activity: Make two lists side by side with a line down the middle. Title one column: "Characteristics of citizens of the world" and the other column: "Characteristics of citizen of heaven" and ask the group to call out characteristics for each column, one at a time. Take time to look at the two lists and compare/contrast them.

WEEK 2

read chapter two



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

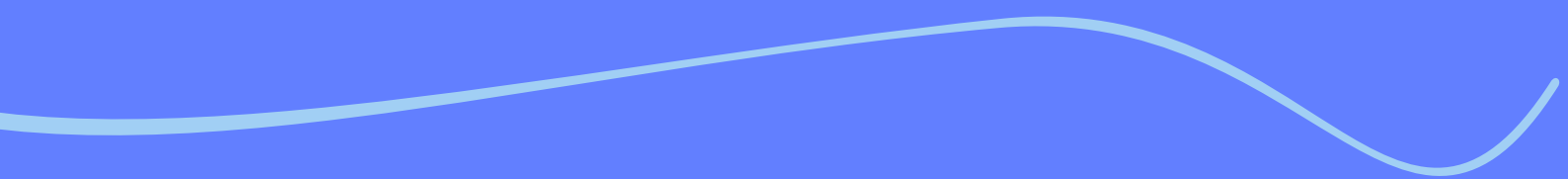
What do you think it looks like to work together with one mind and one purpose? (verse 2)

What is it like for you to read verses 6-11? What can we learn from Jesus in his display of humility? Talk about the meaning of humility. What does it look like to act in humility? What does it mean to have a heart/posture of humility?

What does it mean to you to pour out your life as an offering, like pouring out water from a cup? (verse 17) What do you think that could look like in your daily life?

WEEK 2

activity



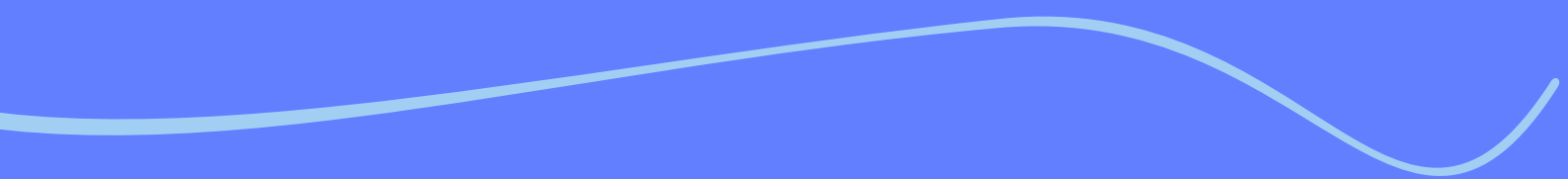
Materials needed: a large Sticky Note sheet and a marker

Question: What is a practical way this week that you can prioritize the interests of others over your own interests? (verses 3-4)

Activity: Ask the group to start listing examples of ways to care for the interest of others over their own and write them down. Have them choose 1-2 to do in the upcoming week and plan to tell the group how it went next week.

WEEK 3

read chapter three



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Paul compares his accomplishments and status to Christ in verses 5-6. What is the outcome of that comparison? What does Paul gain in the end?

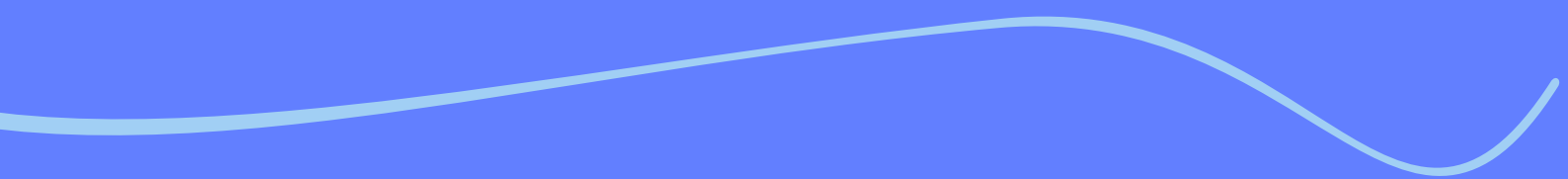
What does it mean to share in Christ's death and resurrection? (verse 10)

When have you experienced Christ taking hold of you or your life? How does that impact the ways you follow Jesus or struggle to follow him? (verse 12)

What does it mean to you to focus on what is ahead instead of behind and to "press on"? What is the goal? How have you done that before or how have you seen someone else do that? (verses 13-14)

WEEK 3

activity



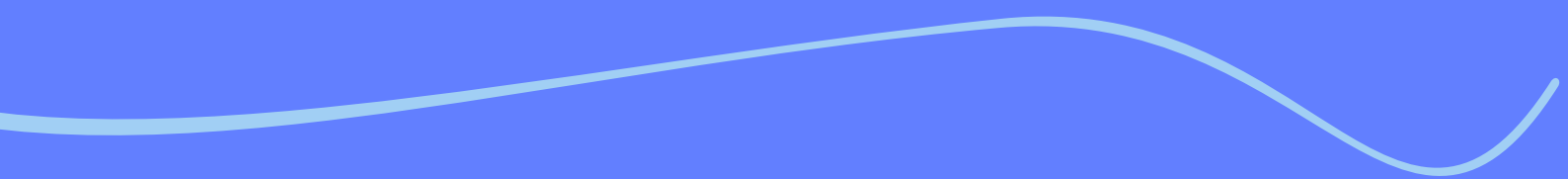
Materials needed: index cards and pens for the group

Question: What is a way that someone can pray for you this week? Specifically, think about a way that you need prayer to “press on toward the goal” in your life.

Activity: Have the group write down their prayer requests on their index cards. Make it clear that they will be passing their card to the person next to them. Once everyone is done writing, have everyone pass their cards to the right or left. Their task for the week is to pray for that person with their card. Ask them to check in with their friend during the week, if they can, or the following week.

WEEK 4

read chapter four



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does it mean to rejoice or to be joyful in the Lord? How is that different than being joyful in other things or experiencing happiness? (verse 4)

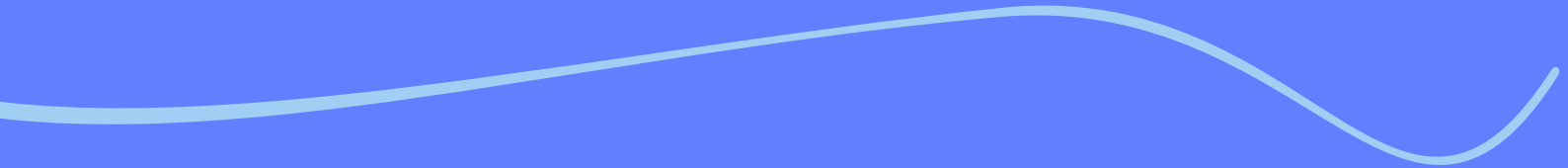
What are some of the ways you connect with God or others when you need help or are worried about something? Have you ever experienced the peace of God as a “guard”? (verses 6-7)

How do we know what things are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, or admirable? (verse 8) How do you think we can learn about those things and apply them to our lives?

What does contentment mean? (verse 11) When have you experienced contentment or discontentment? What are those two experiences like?

WEEK 4

activity



Materials needed: index cards and pens for the group

Question: What is something specific in your life that brings you joy, happiness, or delight? What is something that you just absolutely love or love doing?

Activity: Have the group write down their answer to the question and fold it up without their name written on it. Make it clear that you will be reading their answers aloud to the group. Collect all their cards and shuffle them up. Read them one at a time and have the group guess who wrote that answer.