

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Choosing Joy

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Living Out Our Salvation

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## **Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:8 NIV

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

*The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.*

**Big Idea:** “Working out” or living out your faith is demonstrated by your love and servanthood.

## **Read Philippians 2:12-30**

1. While Paul was present with the believers in Philippi, they were obedient, and now he affirms it is even more important that they remain obedient in his absence (v 12). What does obedience when no one is watching reveal about what is really shaping our hearts? Where do you notice the difference most clearly between external motivation and internal conviction in your faith?
2. Paul pairs a command, “work out your salvation,” with a promise of God’s help, “God is at work in you” (vv 12-13). Just as a sailboat requires both the wind to provide power and the sail to catch it, the Christian life is a partnership where God provides the power while we provide the active cooperation. We don’t create the “wind,” but we must “hoist the sail” of obedience to move forward in our faith. How do you personally find the balance between “working out your salvation” and cooperating with “God who is at work in you?”
3. Paul gives a clear instruction to do everything without grumbling or arguing (v 14). What kinds of situations most often trigger complaining or arguing in



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your life? As Christians, when we grumble or argue, what does this reflect about God to non-believers? What strategies can help us process and redirect these emotions?

4. There is a clear call to live differently than the crooked and perverse culture (v 15). Where do you feel the tension most between blending in and living differently as a follower of Jesus? What pressures can make it tempting to compromise or stay silent about your faith? How can we live set apart without becoming judgmental, self-righteous, or withdrawn from people?
5. Timothy is described as someone having genuine concern for the welfare of others (v 20). Can you recall a time when someone's genuine care made you more open to spiritual conversations or truth? Why do you think authentic care often opens doors to the gospel more effectively than arguments or information alone?
6. Without Christ, our human nature is to look after ourselves. As believers, we should seek the interests of others (v 21). Who are the people in your daily life who you tend to treat as "obstacles" rather than people with interests worth considering? When we feel the creep of selfishness, how can we move toward selflessness? Share about an experience that brought you joy from putting someone else first.
7. Paul says that Timothy's character has been *proven*, shown through consistent, faithful service alongside him in the gospel (v 22). What practices or habits help form a Christlike character that lasts? Are there environments or relationships where it's easier for your best character to show, and others where it's more challenging? How might inconsistencies in our character across different circles (home, work, church, online) affect our witness?
8. Epaphroditus nearly died for the work of Christ (v 27, 30). Paul tells the Philippians to "honor such men" (v 29). Who are some people like Epaphroditus today? How can we "honor" such people?



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