

# THE GOD WHO OPENS HEARTS

Introduction to the Book of Philippians

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at [www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons](http://www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons).

## CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- What are some of your highlights from this past summer?
- What are you looking forward to most this fall season?
- Is there anything that you are dreading this fall (other than pumpkin spice everything)?

## APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

### Intro:

- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Philippians 1:1-30 together, noticing especially the way Paul reveals his own heart for the Philippians. As a group, talk about some of the ways Paul expresses his relationship with his readers.

### Three Major Themes in the Book of Philippians:

#### 1. The Fellowship of the Believers (Philippians 1:5 - “partnership” = fellowship)

1. How do you think your coworkers/neighbors/classmates would define “fellowship”?
2. How does that understanding compare to the concept Paul is talking about in Philippians 1 (intimacy, partnership, community, sharing, etc.)?
3. Do you think it’s possible to have true community with people who aren’t Christ-followers? Why or why not?
4. What are some practical ways this Cell Group can experience community this season?

#### 2. The Joy of the Believers (Philippians 4:4 - “rejoice in the Lord always”)

1. As a group, all about the difference between “joy” and “happiness”?
2. On a gauge of Empty to Full, where is your joy needle pointing right now?
3. What can you do this week to raise that needle just one notch?



#### 3. The Heart of the Believers (Philippians 2:5 - “mind” = heart)

1. How’s your physical heart? What do you do to make sure your physical heart is healthy?
2. How’s your spiritual heart? What do you do to make sure your heart/mind/affections are like those of Jesus?
3. Pastor Pat said this series in the Book of Philippians will provide a battery of heart examinations for each of us. Are you willing to do a serious examination of your own heart with this Cell Group during this series? If not, why not?

## PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group responds by becoming more like Jesus when God uses His Word to do spiritual heart surgery this season.

## MEMORIZE FOR NEXT TIME

- *Philippians 1:3-5 - 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*

