

KINDRED
主裏一家親

2023

STANDING STRIVING
FIRM TOGETHER
FOR THE FAITH
站立得穩 齊心努力



SMALL GROUP AGREEMENT

We commit as a Small Group to follow these five practices as we grow together:

- **Study the Word:** We are transformed as we reflect and respond to the scriptures together. God's Word prunes us and shapes us into people who will bear fruit.
- **Worship the Lord:** Worship is our grateful response to God's relationship with us. In small groups, we can worship by sharing how God is working in our lives, praying together, even responding to God together.
- **Care for Each Other:** By caring we can be a healing agent of the Lord. Listen with love. Pray for each other.
- **Love Our Neighbors:** *"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."* Matthew 25:35. God invites us into His work by considering how we serve and love people beyond our group.
- **Relate As Friends:**

Meetings: day of week _____ from _____ am/pm to _____ am/pm

We agree to help create a welcoming, safe atmosphere for fellowship by.....

- ... Maintaining confidentiality
- ... Listening well to one another, giving each person equal time to speak and be heard.
- ... Affirming each other and not correcting someone's comments.
- ... Speaking respectfully of others.
- ... Providing advice or accountability only if invited to do so, and then gently.

Name: _____ Date: _____

STUDY INTRODUCTION:

*“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear about you that you are **standing firm** in one spirit, with one mind **striving together** for the faith of the gospel...”*

- **Philippians 1:27 NASB2020**

BOOK: The Epistle to the Church at Philippi

The church in Philippi faced serious threats from outside as well as potentially demoralizing divisions within. When we read Paul’s letter to his brothers and sisters in the faith at Philippi, we are eavesdropping on a personal note to some extremely important people in the apostle’s life. Paul planted this church at Philippi, “*a leading city of the district of Macedonia*” on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:12). This church ended up strategically reaching all of Macedonia with the gospel. Paul urges the Philippian believers to “*stand fast*” in the one Spirit, as they “*strive together*” for the gospel, and thus “*not be intimidated in any way by those who oppose you.*”

As we listen in, we can hear what true Christian love sounds like and what “*partnership in the gospel*” can mean to a group of people focused on a single cause and energized by a single Savior. Jesus creates a new mind in his disciples and demands that they exhibit it toward one another (2:5). One of the distinctive features of Paul’s Letter to the Philippians is the evidence of his very close friendship with members of this congregation. More than any other congregation Paul founded, the church in Philippi faithfully supported his missionary work by providing him with helpers and sending him financial gifts on a number of occasions (*Phil. 1: 5; 4: 15*). Their relationship has been characterized as “*participation/partnership*” in the gospel from the beginning, a partnership that involved the Philippians in evangelism and in furthering the gospel mission of Jesus through their “*benefactions*” to Paul.

– **Pastor James Broughton**, *Damascus International Fellowship*

SESSION 1

Theme: One Mind, One Family

Scripture: Philippians 1:27–2:4

Sermon Date: May 28, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Paul wanted the Christians in Philippi to live in a manner worthy of the gospel. He encourages them to stand fast, knowing that their faith will be challenged by the Greco-Roman culture in which they lived. Being a Christian doesn't exempt us from difficulties, disunity, disagreements, and disappointments. His desire is for them to present a united front for the sake of the gospel. In essence, Paul is saying that their behavior under pressure is more compelling than a verbal presentation of the gospel. Both are needed, but gospel behavior gives us credibility with our circles of influence.

Paul gives us a relationship-building toolkit for Christian unity. This toolkit emphasizes the fact that when we are rightly related to Jesus Christ, there is a commitment to be rightly related to one another.

PRAYER

Father, as we begin this new Kindred season alongside our brothers and sisters in the Kindred community, we ask that your Spirit provide us clarity and unity in our Lord Jesus Christ. As we engage you through studying your word together, give us ears to hear you and one another well, hearts open to your leading and humility, just as Jesus showed us. Amen

READ

Philippians 1:27–2:4

PREVIEW

What drew you to be a part of this Kindred study?



DISCUSSION

1. What manners are “worthy of the gospel of the Christ” (*NIV 1:27*)? How would their manners let Paul know that believers were standing firm and striving together? Why will believing in Christ make us suffer? What are the struggles mentioned here?
2. Reflect on a challenge that you have overcome in your life. What was the challenge, and what was the blessing?
3. Can you summarize Paul’s teaching on how to become united? Considering the context, what’s the key principle that makes us united?
4. How would putting the needs of the body of Christ ahead of our own interests strengthen the body? What specific behaviors would you be willing to change to contribute to the unity of the body?

PRAYER

Father, continue to speak to us in the days ahead, guiding us to changes we can make personally and together to strengthen the body of Christ.

Amen

SESSION 2

Theme: Remaining Focused, Moving Forward

Scripture: Philippians 3:12–16

Sermon Date: June 4, 2023

INTRODUCTION

In this passage, Paul refuses to rest on his past successes, but presses on toward that day when he will present himself blameless to Christ. He presses on to *“take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”* (Philippians 3:12)

Paul is not talking about overcoming remorse for pre-conversion sins, but about humility and realism in assessing spiritual maturity. The mature believer will not rest on past obedience but will labor to maintain purity and blamelessness until the day of Christ. The effort Paul describes is not expended in working for his salvation but in working out his salvation.

Paul’s efforts are a response to God’s call, and God’s call is always effective, thus Paul can be confident that what God has started, he will finish, and that at the end of the day he can take no credit for achieving the goal toward which he runs with all his might. We are working out the implications of the righteousness given to us by God as a gift through faith, not won by our strenuous efforts.

PRAYER

Father, guide and direct our thoughts and words as we open your holy word together. Lead us into your truth and a deeper understanding of who you are calling us to become. Amen

READ

Philippians 3:12–16

REVIEW

What drew you to be a part of this Kindred study?



DISCUSSION

1. What is the goal to which Paul refers in verse 12?
*(Look back at verses 7–12 for help with this.
See also 1 Corinthians 9:24–25; 1 Timothy 6:11–12)*
2. How did God get ahold of you (verse 13)?
How has God continued to keep you in his hands?
3. What from your past could be holding you back?
If you have changed, what made you change?
As you look forward in your life, what do you see as your goal?
4. How are relationships with Christian brothers and sisters who
are unlike you important to achieving the purpose for which
Christ took hold of you?
What challenges have you encountered in doing this, and
what blessings have you experienced?

PRAYER

Father, we ask that you give us a holy discontent that causes us to press forward, as the Apostle Paul did, toward a deeper spiritual maturity informed by what we just learned from your word as we studied together.
Amen

SESSION 3

Theme: Unity With Understanding

Scripture: Philippians 3:17–4:7

Sermon Date: June 11, 2023

INTRODUCTION

As we are growing and maturing together in the Lord, we learn from one another's godly example. We exemplify the gospel by focusing not on earthly matters, but rather on heavenly, eternal matters.

The Apostle Paul urged the Philippians to follow his godly example, but not just his alone, also those who are mature like him. God has given us spiritual mentors; we need to look to them and learn from their godly example. Paul also warned them to avoid worldly patterns. Paul does not ignore matters of our earthly life and fellowship that cause disruption and anxiety. Instead, he calls us to seek God's peace. He reminds us of our identity, that we are citizens of heaven. We must not make the mistake of treating this place as our eternal home and spend all our energy building our house on the sand.

PRAYER

Father, thank you for the example of a mature Christian life that the Apostle Paul writes about in the verses we are studying today. Help us to learn from your Word and from one another what it means to be conformed to you. Amen

READ

Philippians 3:17–4:7

REVIEW

What did you find most significant in the sermon you heard this past Sunday?

UNITY WITH UNDERSTANDING

DISCUSSION

1. What is the godly example Paul has shown?
Who are your spiritual role models? Why?
What qualities or character traits do they exhibit that you feel are worthy of imitating?
2. Why did Paul say the following words with tears? (3:18 NIV)
Can you summarize the different destinies of the two groups of people?
Why are the destinies different?
Why will God transform our bodies to be like his body (3:21 NIV)?
3. Read 4:1–7, can you summarize Paul’s exhortations to brothers and sisters? How did Paul describe them?
Do you have a “*true companion*”?
4. How did Paul direct the Philippians to resolve conflict in chapter 2?
How does Paul invite his readers to apply this advice in vs. 4:2–3?
How can we achieve and maintain peace?
5. What is “*peace of God*” (4:7)?
Why does God respond to requests with “*peace of God*”?
Have you ever experienced “*peace of God*”?
Have you ever requested something other than “*peace of God*” from God?
What is the correlation between having the “*peace of God*” & living as “*Citizens of Heaven*”?

PRAYER

Father, grant us your peace and remind us each day to pass that peace to others. Amen

SESSION 4

Theme: We're Together!

Scripture: Philippians 4:21–23

Sermon Date: June 18, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Paul's greeting in chapter 4 summarizes his letter by reminding the community of faith that ALL and EVERY applies to anyone and everyone who has received Jesus as Lord through the ministry of the gospel. It doesn't matter whether they were born a Roman citizen or attained citizenship through colonization; whether they are a citizen of another country residing in Philippi or whether they are a Jewish Christians, whether they are new converts or old converts. As long as they are followers of Christ, they are all part of God's family, and they should all be greeted equally.

Paul's greeting serves not just as a social or colloquial closing to this letter, but as a reminder of what is at stake. As recipients of the gospel, the community of faith in Philippi is called to stand firm together and strive/struggle together in partnership, thus allowing God's glory to shine forth through their hospitality, generosity, and love for one another.

PRAYER

Father, remind us of the importance of relationships within your body as together we study your word as kindred. Amen

READ

Philippians 4:21–23

REVIEW

What stood out to you in the message you heard preached last Sunday?

WE'RE TOGETHER!

DISCUSSION

1. What groups of people does Paul mention as he finishes his message to the church at Philippi?
Do any of those surprise you?
What do you make of Paul greeting all the saints on behalf of Jesus Christ?
2. What does this scripture reveal about relationships in the body of Christ?
What limits do you put on who you are willing to accept as a Christian sibling?
3. Why do you think Paul invokes God's grace as he closes his letter?
(See also Acts 14:26; Philippians 1:7)
4. Describe a special experience you've had with Christian brothers or sisters through Kindred. How did this experience enlarge your view of Christ's body?

PRAYER

Father, thank you for what you have taught us. We pray that you will continue to provide avenues where we can grow together as members of your kindred body. Amen

SESSION 5 Deep Dive Study #1

Theme: Standing Firm

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-13 and 3:7-11

Deep Dive Small Group: Study #1

INTRODUCTION

Over the past four weeks your group has studied in parallel with the sermons being preached in each of the Kindred church congregations. For groups who wish to dive deeper, we are providing two additional studies in Philippians which will explore two themes that will help us further identify what it means to exhibit the character of Jesus Christ.

In this week's study we will look at Paul's description of the character and work of Jesus to see what we can learn about becoming more Christlike in our relationships with others. In next week's second deep dive we will build upon what we learned to explore what it means to be a multi-ethnic body of believers engaging with the world to bring the transformational power of Jesus to those who desperately need the peace, love and hope that only Jesus can bring.

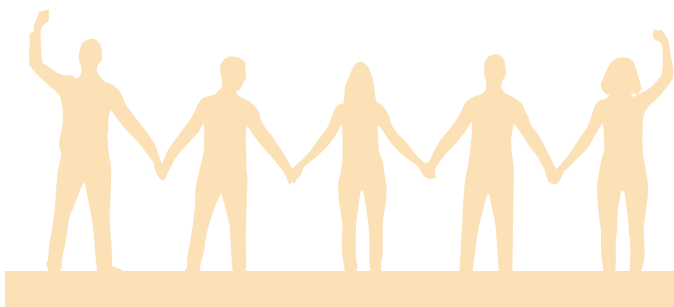
PRAYER

Father, show us the way to be more like you in the way we think and in the way we act. Open our hearts and minds to the truth in your scripture and our ears to hear one another well. Amen

READ

Philippians 2:5-13 and 3:7-11

STANDING



DISCUSSION

1. What is the mindset of Jesus Christ that we are to have in our relationships?
2. What does humility look like in cross-cultural interactions? What examples of this can you recall from the gospel accounts of Jesus' earthly ministry?
3. What does it mean to you to work out your salvation? (2:12) Who is doing the work? (See *Philippians 1:6; 2:13; 3:9* for some ideas)
4. What value do you put on knowing Jesus Christ? How does that show in your life? How will you take time to know God better? How could this improve your relationships?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we long to know you better and, as we do so, become imitators of yours that show forth your character to those you've placed in our lives. We ask for more of you, Lord Jesus. Amen

SESSION 6 Deep Dive Study #2

Theme: Striving Together

Scripture: Philippians 2:14-18 and 4:8-13

Deep Dive Small Group: Study #2

INTRODUCTION

Over the past four weeks your group has studied in parallel with the sermons being preached in each of the Kindred church congregations. For groups who wish to dive deeper, we are providing two additional studies in Philippians which will explore two themes that will help us further identify what it means to exhibit the character of Jesus Christ.

In this week's study we will look at Paul's description of the character and work of Jesus to see what we can learn about becoming more Christlike in our relationships with others. In next week's second deep dive we will build upon what we learned to explore what it means to be a multi-ethnic body of believers engaging with the world to bring the transformational power of Jesus to those who desperately need the peace, love and hope that only Jesus can bring.

PRAYER

Father, bind us together with you and one another so that together we can move forward as your ambassadors and change agents to our city. Amen

READ

Philippians 2:14-18 and 4:8-13

STRIVING



DISCUSSION

1. What is grumbling? (*Verse 14 also translated murmuring or complaining*)
What kinds of things lead you to grumble?
What outcome does grumbling produce?
2. What is arguing? (*Verse 14 also translated disputing and questioning*)
What do you like to argue about?
What is your goal when you are arguing?
Does arguing lead to peace?
3. When we are faced with wrong actions and wrong thinking, what alternatives to grumbling and arguing does Philippians 4:8-13 offer?
What should be our goal in disagreements?
4. How will you put in to practice what you have learned in this year's Kindred Study?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for being here with us each week. We pray that you will show us ways to move ahead as brothers and sisters in the days ahead. Amen

TOGETHER

FOR FURTHER READING

Craddock, Fred

Philippians: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching

Fee, Gordon

Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Jennings, Mark A.

The Price of Partnership in the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Migliore, Daniel

Philippians and Philemon: Belief Commentary Series

Witherington, Ben

Paul's Letter to the Philippians: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary

Wuest, Kenneth

Word Studies: Philippians in the Greek New Testament

KINDRED PARTNER CHURCHES

Kindred is an ongoing partnership of sister congregations, dedicated to building relationships amongst Christians of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The goal: to tangibly embody the multi-ethnic family of God in the city of Seattle. **The vision:** to be an ongoing, messy, but beautiful, journey to bring Christ's healing to our city's divided and broken places.

The Kindred partnership is made up of three Seattle churches: Damascus International Fellowship, Evangelical Chinese Church, and University Presbyterian Church.



Damascus International Fellowship

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(206) 725-9310

Evangelical Chinese Church

www.eccseattle.org



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Redmond Campus:

17360 NE 67th. Ct., Redmond, WA 98052
(425) 748-9660

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University Presbyterian Church

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The background features two stylized human silhouettes in shades of purple, facing each other and holding hands. The silhouettes are simple and lack facial features. The overall color palette is monochromatic, using various tones of purple and magenta.

KINDRED

主裏一家親

2023

**DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP
EVANGELICAL CHINESE CHURCH
UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

大馬士革國際教會 + 西雅圖證道堂 + 華大長老教會