**The Community’s “Response-ability” (Leader Handout)**

Philippians 2:12-18

**Big Idea: Work out our sanctification, get along with each other without complaining or arguing, be a blameless witness to those around us and be glad to serve others for their growth in Christ.**

**Introduction**

* Introduction: Good evening. Glad you are here with us. Tonight we are gathering together as one big group, so to create more interaction, I would like to break us up into smaller groups. So, group 1 over here, you four are group 2…

**Game**

* Now to start us off, we are going to have a game about healthy living. I’m going to ask a question and the group closest to the answer without going over is the winner for that question and get a point, sorta like: the Price is Right. And the group with the highest amount of points will win a prize. Now to make it fair, we are going to rotate which group goes first, second, third, fourth.
* **Healthy Living Questions:**

1. According to the American Heart Association a person should eat fish this many times per week. [2]
2. According to the American Heart Association the recommended amount minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity for an adult per week is: [150]
3. According to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion the recommended calories per day for “sedentary” males ages 21-25 is: [2400]
4. World Health Organization (WHO) Member States have agreed to reduce the global population’s intake of salt by \_\_\_\_\_\_ % by 2025. [30%]
5. According to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion the recommended intake of “Dark Green Vegetables” per week for a male ages 19-30 is 2 cups, but the average is: [0.5]

* **Extra Questions**

1. According to the National Sleep Foundation, young adults (18-25), should have a sleep range of how many hours? [7-9]
2. 7-8
3. 7-9 (check)
4. 8-9
5. 8.5-9.5
6. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics the limit for screen time for a child ages 2-5 is:
7. None
8. 30 minutes
9. 60 minutes (check)
10. 120 minutes
11. According to the American Academy of Dermatologists children aged 6-11 years need to take a shower:
12. Every day
13. Every other day
14. Every few days (check)
15. Once a week

**Transition to Text**

* Last week, Edward had us look at the example of Christ. Where Paul implores us to not just look at our own interests, but also to others. Then, Paul give the ultimate example, Christ, who left His enthronement in heaven and took on human flesh and humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross.
* Now we come to this next section. And Paul here wants us to have the right response in view of Christ’s example. And he is going to lay out 4 things that is going to be healthy for the Church of Philippi and for us.

**Text**

* 12 So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, continue working out your salvation with awe and reverence, 13 for the one bringing forth in you both the desire and the effort—for the sake of his good pleasure—is God. 14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without blemish though you live in a crooked and perverse society, in which you shine as lights in the world 16 by holding on to the word of life so that on the day of Christ I will have a reason to boast that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain. 17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice together with all of you. 18 And in the same way you also should be glad and rejoice together with me.

**Let’s Talk About it**

* Answer the following questions in your group:

1. According to verse 12, Paul instructs believers to work out their salvation. Does this mean that we have to earn our salvation? If not, then what is Paul talking about?
   * Paul did not say "work for your salvation." We obtain salvation by receiving it as a gift (Eph. 2:8), but having received it freely, we have a responsibility to cultivate it. The apostle had in mind the present aspect of our salvation, sanctification, in which we are laborers together with God (1 Cor. 3:9; cf. Titus 3:8).4 In justification and glorification, God does all the work (Eph. 2:9; Jude 24), but in sanctification we have a part to play. We "work out" our salvation by keeping in step (cooperating) with (obeying) the Holy Spirit, who leads us in the will of God (Gal. 5:16). In the context, the particular aspect of sanctification in view involves achieving unity through humility.
   * The entire church, which had grown spiritually ill (2:3-4), is charged now with taking whatever steps are necessary to restore itself to health and wholeness.
2. In verse 13, it states that God is the one who provides motivation and strength to work out our salvation. Some people interpret and apply it as “Let go and let God,” meaning they don’t have any responsibility to their spiritual growth. If this is not the case, then “How should this verse be applied to our lives?”
   * Here he reminded them that God was "at work," not just with them, but in them, to provide motivation and enabling strength (Gr. energein, from which we get the word "energy"). He would enable them to work out their own salvation. God carries out this work through the indwelling Holy Spirit, and His main tool is the Word of God.
   * The saint must not merely rest in the Holy Spirit for victory over sin and the production of a holy life. He must in addition to this dependence upon the Spirit, say a positive NO to sin and exert himself to the doing of the right.
3. What do you think are common complaints and arguments that happen in churches today?
   * music, carpet or wall color, time, food, preaching, teaching, budget, money
4. In verse 14, Paul states that believers should shine as lights in a dark and evil world. What do you think are major/relevant “blemishes” that prevent our light from shining?
   * As God's children we are to be free from defilement, and so not chargeable with justifiable criticism, even though we live "in the midst" of a twisted ("crooked") and perverted ("perverse") generation (cf. Deut. 32:5).
   * Obvious sin and not so obvious: embezzlement, adultery, unloving, hypocrisy, violence, ignorance.
5. In verses 17 and 18, Paul states that believers should be glad and rejoice in serving others for their growth in Christ. Why do you think it is hard to have this attitude/perspective?
   * It is a sacrifice. It can take time or money that we would allocate to something we like. It can be a disappointment, we invest into people and they don’t come through. We think that there is something better than helping others. We are not rested or cared for ourselves.

* **The Four Responses**
  + Be a community that works out our sanctification.
  + Be a community that does things together without complaining or arguing
  + Be a community that is blameless witness to those around us
  + Be a community that is glad to serve others for their growth in Christ.

**Let’s Plan it**

* Selecting one of The Four Responses, come up with a doable plan/idea that would help encourage or support growth in that area for our community of faith here at Friday Night Fellowship.

**Let’s Apply it**

* Imagine if our group grew and we are on all cylinders in these four areas for our Friday Night Fellowship. We would feel supported in our growth in Christ and we would be shining out the gospel of Jesus as it transforms us.
* And I know that most of us are timed strapped. We have classes, we have homework, we have work, we have friends and families, we support the church, so to ask each of you to execute all 4 responses is not reasonable. But I would like for us to consider encouraging/supporting our group in 1 of 4 areas that Paul laid out: Sanctification-Helping each other become more like Christ, Building unity together, Being a good witness to those around us, Having an attitude of gladness and rejoicing in serving others. So, circle one of The Four Responses that you would be willing to support for our group.