

A Deeper Life – Philippians 1:3-11

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations.

Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

- Gary Haugen tells the story of spending the day at a visitor's centre instead of hiking with his father on Mt. Rainier. In other words, being on the journey but missing the adventure. Does the Christian life sometimes feel like this? Why or why not?

Deism pretty much sums up the present state of things with regard to the faith posture of the western world. It goes like this: God created the world, sent Jesus, gave us the Bible, and then walked away, left it up to us to work it out from there. We have to settle for a religion pretty much void of wonder, the supernatural, and an unmediated engagement with God, but we get to go to church instead. (from *Reframation* by Alan Hirsch & Mark Nelson).

- Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
- Read **Philippians 1:3-11**. What stands out in this prayer?
- Paul is convinced that God will complete what he has begun (v. 6). What is he referring to? What does God still need to complete in your life?
- Paul goes on to pray that their “love would abound more and more in knowledge” (v. 9), and that they “may be able to discern what is best” (v. 10). In other words, that the know and follow God more. How is knowing related to following? Can you do one without the other?
- How is intellectual knowing (Greek) different from relational knowing (Hebrew)?
- In the context of the prayer, discerning what is best refers to what God calls us to. Can you think of a time when God allowed or did something that was completely different than what you thought would be best? What was that like? What was the result?
- This sermon series was entitled **More**, highlighting a bigger story, a wilder and more unpredictable God, and the invitation to a deeper life. What part of this series stood out for you? How might this change how you engage with God or the Christian life?