EMPTY & FILLED

Scripture | Philippians 1:1-11

Ice Breaker

1. If you had to choose, which would you prefer - starting something new or finishing something you have been working on for awhile?
2. Do you ever start something you don't finish?

Going Deeper

1. Read Philippians 1:1-11
2. In this opening of this letter, what convictions does Paul express?
3. Why did the Philippians bring Paul joy?
4. What is joy? Is it different than happiness? If so, how?
5. What is the "good work" that Paul is confident will be completed in verse 6?
6. Paul expresses that it is God who started the good work in us and will complete the good work in us. How easy or hard is it for you to trust God will complete the good work he started in you or others? Why?
7. What is the relationship between love and knowledge in verses 9 to 11? How may that differ from what some of us believe about love?
8. What does one need to empty themselves of if they are to grow in love based on this passage? What about in a more general sense?
9. This introduction to the letter has a running theme of partnership: Paul's partnership with the Gospel, his partnership with the Philippians, their partnership with the Gospel, and God's partnership with us. What can we do to be partners with God in the work he has begun in us?
10. Think about your church community. Would you say that you are in partnership for the gospel, or is the community more social? Why?
11. In verse 11 Paul encourages the Philippians to be filled with the fruit of righteousness, or right living, that comes through Jesus. How does one become filled with the fruit of righteousness? What do we need to do to discern what is best for us?
12. Why is discernment an important aspect of Christian maturity? What can you do to be more discerning? What can a church do?
13. What are some of the fruits (evidence) or righteousness (right living) we should be able to see in the life of a believer? What is one you know you need to partner with God and work on?

BRBCGroups