



Group Time

◀◀ LOOK BACK:

1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 46 for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

3. Review last week's lesson.



What is, or should, our group be doing to "find favor" with others, and how can we ensure an attitude of joy while doing it?



LOOK UP:

Question: What does the term "tough love" mean? Is it really love, or just an excuse to exact punishment?

1. Review your notes from the Gathering Time (Sermon).
2. **Context:** Paul continues describing his affinity for the Philippians in chapter 1, verses 3-11. It's like the child he raised is a chip-off-the-old-block and it brings him joy. It's a partnership of mutual affinity for the gospel that is based on love, a love that is intentional and "filled with the fruit of righteousness through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God."

Paul, knowing that he may never see his beloved Philippians again, cheers them on from prison, hoping they will keep the love fire burning and growing as they experience challenges.

But while love is welcoming to everyone, love doesn't accept bad behavior (sin). Love grows in knowledge through education and correction.

3. Discussion:

- Describe the differences between these three expressions of love:
 1. I love pizza.
 2. I love my family – no matter what.
 3. I love my teammates.
- Read Philippians 1:3-11.
How would you describe Paul's relationship with the Philippians? What made it special?
Which of the three expressions above was it most like?
- Reread Philippians 1:9-11.
How is an outside goal, a commonality of purpose, or a pursuit of something greater than oneself able to grow this kind of love? (Verse 11)



LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: Love one another to glorify God.

John 13:34-35

³⁴ "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- What new thing will you do this week to love another for the glory of God? Do it and be prepared to share the results.
