**Prepare**: Read Philippians 2. Bring any insights and questions from your reading or the sermon to your group for discussion.

## Discuss\*

- Read Philippians 2:1. The Greek word for "encouragement" means to come alongside and help, counsel, and exhort. Paul goes on to say that this type of encouragement comes from the "fellowship of Spirit". Who are some people in your life who need to experience this type of encouragement? How can you focus your attention on being a source of encouragement and live that out practically in more purposeful way? Be specific.
- The Greek idea for "consolation of love" in verse 1 conveys the idea of "Jesus coming close and whispering words of gentle cheer and tender counsel into the ear of the believer". Talk about how this idea or concept feels to you when you contemplate it.
   What are some ways you can become more purposeful in listening to Jesus as prayer?
- Verse 3 exhorts us towards humility. The idea behind the word is "moral littleness".
  Read 1 Timothy 1:15. What is the connection you see between the idea of "moral littleness" and Paul's words in 1 Timothy 1:15?
- Read verse 12. Discuss the statement to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" in light of the teaching you just heard on this verse.
- What are some areas of life that you approach with fear and trembling finances, work, family, parenting, relationships, etc. – and as a result you invest tremendous effort into? Talk freely and openly about these areas. Do you approach your sanctification process with the same level of fear and trembling? Please, be open and honest with each other.
- God is at work in you "to work and to will for His good pleasure". How does this idea shape your perceptions and expectations about your sanctification?
- Something to contemplate and or discuss: Is your vision of your spiritual growth and maturity rooted in your will and good pleasure or God's will and good pleasure?