



## Hope Together Week 2

### Opening

- Begin with a brief **welcome and prayer** to set the tone for the group time.
- **Introduce the theme:** Last week, we discussed Philippians 2, where Paul taught *why* unity matters. This week, we're jumping ahead to Philippians 4, where he talks about how unity helps us in our effort to stand firm in the faith.

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### Discussion Questions

#### CONNECT

- When you think about needing to “stand firm” what scenarios come to mind?
- Share a time when unity (not uniformity) helped in a situation you were in. What made the difference? Why is diversity and unity so important for the body of Christ?
  - Where do you see the Church doing well in this? Where can we get better?

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#### DISCOVER

##### ***Read Philippians 4:4-9 together as a group***

- Paul commands us to “*rejoice in the Lord always.*” What does rejoicing *in the Lord* look like when life is hard?
- In verse 6, Paul says not to be anxious but to pray. What stands out to you about the kind of prayer he describes (with thanksgiving)?
- Verse 7 promises “the peace of God... will guard your hearts and minds.” What do you think that guarding looks like in everyday life?
- In verses 8–9, Paul gives a list of things to think about. How does our thought life shape our experience of peace?

##### ***Read Philippians 4:10-13 together as a group***

- How does Paul describe contentment in verses 11–12? What lessons does he say he's learned through abundance and need?
- Verse 13 is one of the most quoted verses in the Bible. Based on the context, what does “I can do all things through Christ” actually mean?
- Why do you think contentment is so difficult to practice when our hearts often want more, better, and newer?

## APPLY

- Think about your current circumstances—what situation is testing your peace or your contentment right now?
- How might prayer, gratitude, and intentional thought (vv. 6–8) change how you respond to that situation this week?
- What might it look like to *learn* contentment like Paul did—through practice, not perfection?

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## RESPOND

- Jason shared an overview of how we are to stand firm according to Philippians 4:
  - **Stand firm in identity** — Remember who you are in Christ.
  - **Pursue peace** — Reconcile and agree in the Lord.
  - **Choose Joy** — Let joy and gentleness shape your spirit.
  - **Pray through anxiety** — Let the peace of God guard your heart.
  - **Guard your mind** — Think on what is true, noble, and pure.
  - **Stand Firm in Generosity** — Let your giving and serving prove your unity in the gospel.
  - **Remember who you are** — Saints, citizens of heaven, partners in the mission of Christ.
- Which of these is the Lord wanting you to focus on in this season of life?

## GROUP PRAYER

Take time for prayer requests and celebrations, and then spend time praying for these things specifically:

- **Unity:** Reconcile where needed; ask for the Spirit's help to "agree in the Lord."
- **Peace:** Trade anxiety for prayer and receive God's guarding peace. Name requests openly.
- **Witness:** Ask God to multiply gospel impact through our unity.

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## CLOSING

Next week we are starting a series called **unCERTAINTY** where we'll be walking verse by verse through the letter of 1<sup>st</sup> John. Take sometime this week to read it in preparation.