

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Flint & Steel

Week 2: The Power of Influence
Philemon 1:6-7

Week of September 18, 2022
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

In this series, we are learning how to assist other Christians in their spiritual growth. This process is called disciple-making. This week, we studied the power of influence. The person we become is significantly determined by the influence of those in our lives. Understanding the power of influence will help us manage the influences in our lives and help us to use the power to positively influence others.

Kicking It Off: In his sermon, Jeff talked about pickleball. Have you ever played the game? If given the opportunity, would you like to try it?

Discussion:

1. Paul had a profound influence on the spiritual formation of Philemon. Tell the group about someone who has had an influence on your spiritual life.
2. Reread Philemon 1:6 *I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share.*

The term “partnership” is a translation of the Greek word “koinonia.” Biblical Koinonia is a community of believers tightly bonded through the sharing of life. How could a group of Christian friends move their group toward God’s vision of koinonia?

3. What do you think Paul meant in Philemon 1:6 by *“deepening your understanding of every good thing we share?”*
4. In Philemon 1:6, Paul indicates that “koinonia” (tight community) is “effective” at helping us experience more of the “good things” in the Christian faith. In other words, we grow when we see Christianity modeled before us. Why is demonstration more effective than explanation?
5. Reread what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1 *“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”*
This sentiment is almost never conveyed today. Why is that? Should we be saying it?
6. How can we better manage the influences that are affecting us spiritually?
7. How can we more effectively use the power of influence to impact others spiritually?

Wrapping It Up: Like red hot coals in a grill, pray that group members would mutually influence each other to become passionate followers of Jesus.