

## TRANSFORMATION

### The book of Philippians - questions for group or individual study

#### 1. NEW HEART – PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

##### LAUNCH

1. *'Every cloud has a silver lining'*. Do you agree with this viewpoint. Can you remember the last time that you had a cloud with a silver lining? What was the cloud? What was the lining? Was God in any way involved?

##### DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

2. To get a feel for the background to what Paul writes to the Philippians, read the story of what happened to him at Philippi in Acts 16:11-40. What do you notice from Luke's account?
3. Who is someone of whom you can say 'I thank God every time I think of you' vs 3 and why? How can you become more like them?
4. *'He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus'*(vs 5). What does this imply about how God will direct you up until Christ's return? What is challenging and what is encouraging about this promise?
5. Paul *'knew how to be tough, but he also knew to be tender'* (p17 A Life worth Living). What evidence is there for this statement from both passages? How are we to work out which is the right approach in any given situation?
6. Why must love be *'the motivating force behind... ministry'* (p18 A Life worth Living) & Philippians 1 vs 9 ? What happens when it isn't?
7. Where does such love come from? How do we acquire it?

##### APPLICATION

8. Pray for anyone who is going through a stormy time at the moment. (Just as Paul did when he cast out the demon and was flung in prison for his troubles). Pray for the silver linings of kingdom advance, character development or anything else to be very much in evidence during this time.