



## Small Group Curriculum

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### THE FAMILY OF GOD • WEEK 3 • Philippians 4:6-7

This week we had the pleasure of having Pastor Ashley interview Melissa Slattery about what the family of God has looked like to her over the past 8 months. After a catastrophic dirtbiking accident, Melissa lived through what should have been one of the most traumatizing experiences in anybody's life. But God was there in the midst of the emergency to provide clarity, guidance, and hope. Following the event, the Awakening Church showed up to her to be the hands and feet of Jesus and serve her in ways she did not ask for but in profound ways she desperately needed. Long story short, God comes through. When you are integrated into the Body of Christ, you get to experience and be a part of the blessing that is that church body.

### REMINDERS

- Women's Collective gathering: a casual afternoon with snacks, conversation, and fun! **March 22nd from 3-5pm**. Registration and info [here](#).
- Easter One-Time Serve: opportunities to serve on **April 4th-5th**. More info and registration [here](#).
- *Knowing God* daily scripture and prayer devotional [here](#).
- All upcoming events can be found [here](#).

### ICEBREAKER

What was a time where you found yourself stuck between a rock and a hard place? How did you get out of it? Did you have to ask for help or did you end up figuring out the solution in time?

### INTRODUCTION

The peace of God that surpasses all understanding is a beautiful concept for followers of Jesus to hold onto. It gives us hope. What we must understand is that in order for each of us to experience this peace, we must submit to God and His will over our lives. The peace of God does not come on our terms. While we may try to achieve peace in our lives on our own terms, the best that we can really conjure up is momentary happiness or general comfort. Some people say that money can't buy happiness. Others say that the first person has clearly never bought a jetski or a racecar. Have you ever seen someone sad on a jetski? What about driving fast like a NASCAR? Neither have I. But I'm quite certain that the adrenaline, delights, and comforts that come from monetary gain pale in comparison to the peace that comes from the Lord.

### DISCUSSION

Read [John 16:1-33](#)

# A W A K E N I N G

- Why does Jesus warn his followers of the sorrow that they will face?
- Why do we live in a world in which we experience great sorrow and great joy? Why must there be this sorrow if Jesus has already conquered the grave?

## Read [Luke 21:10-19](#)

- Was this prophetic warning for the disciples or for the modern church?
- What wisdom can we gain from this teaching of Jesus about how we ought to respond to adversity or persecution?
- Sometimes we aren't being persecuted but life is still just hard and riddled with burdens. What is it that burdens your soul?
- How does this teaching from Jesus prescribe how we ought to respond? Should our responses be more external or internal?

## Read [2 Timothy 2:10-17](#)

- What does practical christian living do to us as followers of Jesus? How does this prepare us for times of suffering?

## Read [Acts 7](#) (or time permitting- [Acts 7:44-60](#))

- We know that Jesus bore the cross because of the joy that was set before him. How was Stephen able to embody and live out his calling til his final breath despite being stoned?
- How confident are you in your knowledge of the Word of God and your communion with Jesus to be able to take on great sorrow and pain?

## RESPONSE

- Jesus is always calling us to draw nearer to him and promises and in turn he will draw near to us. What is one area in which you feel called to grow in your faith?
- Encourage someone in your group about how their faith has inspired you.
- We live in a place of great peace, free of fear of persecution and death. Who will you invite to Easter knowing that you are free from true threats? Text them, call them, or go knock on their door on the way home.

## PRAYER

Do a Lectio Divina on these verses, then end your time in prayer together.

*Lectio Divina (Latin for "divine reading") is an ancient Christian practice of reading Scripture slowly and prayerfully, meditating on God's Word, and listening for God's voice.*

*Lectio* - Read the Scripture slowly

*Meditatio* - Read the Scripture and meditate on it; intentionally listen for the "still, small voice" of the Holy Spirit to highlight a word or phrase to you

*Oratio* - Read the Scripture and respond by praying it back to God

*Contemplatio* - Read the Scripture and rest in God's presence by sitting in silence



# A W A K E N I N G

***Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

Jesus our King and Savior, thank you for going before us to show us how deep and wide and vast your love is for us. We pray that you make us brave and recognize the moments when you're calling us to be brave. May we your church be bold in our faith yet completely filled with your eternal peace which surpasses all understanding. In Jesus' name, amen.