

Small Group Discussion Guide – Read Philippians 2:12-13

-Are there ways that this passage was personally convicting, challenging, or encouraging to you? If so, what would those be and why?

-What is the doctrine of sanctification? What might be some ways this doctrine could be misunderstood? What are ways that vs. 12-13 could be misunderstood?

-Joshua mentioned some errors in misunderstanding the doctrine of sanctification that are all dangerous and damning. What would those be, and why?

-What does it mean to “work out your own salvation?” Why is the “therefore” in vs. 12 so significant for understanding the command in that verse? Also, why is the “for” in vs. 13 so important? How does the wider context and the immediate context of vs. 12-13 help us understand this command better?

-How does this passage challenge your view of spiritual growth? (i.e. thinking “I do my part and God does his part,” or “let go and let God,” or “God helps those who help themselves!”) Do you tend to rely more on your own effort or on God's power? How would you know the difference?

-How can we practically live with a sense of fear and trembling while still enjoying confidence and assurance in Christ?

-How should knowing that “God works in you” affect your motivation and attitude toward obedience and spiritual growth? Where do you currently see God at work in your life, or in one another's lives, shaping your desires (“to will”) and actions (“to work”)?

-Are there areas of your life where you feel passive or ‘stuck’ spiritually? How might this passage encourage us to take action while also depending on God's power?

-Are there any spiritual disciplines or habits you're currently neglecting that might help you pursue God's work in your life? What are some practical ways we can open ourselves to God's transforming work and begin walking in paths that lead to growth and sanctification?