

You've Got MAIL!

Six parts to a typical letter in the 1st century:
(See Acts 15:23-29 for a condensed example)

1. Name of Writer
2. Name of Recipient
3. Greeting
4. Prayer Wish and/or Thanksgiving
5. Body
6. Final Greeting / Farewell

About Paul's history with the church in Philippi...
Acts 16

Paul & Timothy write an encouraging and joyful letter from the most unlikely place.

When areas in your life are revealed to you where you need to grow, remind yourself of this Truth:

"I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

– Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

MY STORY

Are you a letter writer?

If so, what do you enjoy most about writing a letter?
If not, what barriers keep you from writing?

What encouragement have you given or received over this last week?

This week Ric began the new series on Philippians – Joy in the Middle. Which one statement, point or insight was most helpful or challenging to you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Paul's letter to the Philippians and jot down anything below that comes to mind as you read...

In Philippians 1:6, we see that we can join Paul in having confidence that God finishes the work he begins in our lives. However, there are plenty of times when holding onto this confidence can be a challenge.

How can the following verses help us build our confidence and trust that God is faithful?

Psalm 13

Hebrews 4:14-16

Matthew 6:25-34

Take a moment and think over your journey with Jesus to this point.

What are some areas where you have seen growth?

What are some areas where God is still working on you?

How does reflecting over what God's done in your life help give you confidence for the road ahead?

Spend some time talking with the Lord exploring what barriers may be in the way between you and the fruitful work He desires to do in and through your life. Also, thank Jesus for the community He's placed us in that helps give each of us the opportunity to grow more and more like Him.

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.