<u>Just for September Leader Guide</u> Philippians 4

Before You Read: The Church has never been a drama-free because it is filled with human beings. Even at the very beginning, there were disagreements within the Body of Christ. Notice how Paul entreats his beloved "yokefellows" to come to some resolution for the sake of the whole. Think of how much we need to hear those words in the Church today!

Read 4:1-9

- 1. Paul calls for reconciliation between two Christian leaders in Philippi. How can we be agents of reconciliation in our communities? What would that look like?
- 2. Does "rejoice in the Lord always" (v. 4) mean we cannot be sad as Christians? How can joy have a place in every aspect of Christian life?
- 3. What do you think God's peace means here? How have you experienced it?
- 4. How does verse 8 encourage Christians to engage with truth, beauty, and goodness in the world around us?

Read 4:10-23

- 5. Paul says he is content even though he is in chains. Do you consider yourself a content person? Why or why not?
- 6. Paul thanks the Philippians for their generous donation that has significantly helped his ministry. How has giving your time, talent, and treasure shaped your faith?
- 7. Are there any lingering thoughts as this study comes to a close? Are there any key takeaways from this letter that will help you as a disciple of Jesus?
- 8. What have you appreciated most about this group and your time together?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this group gathered, and our discussions over this past month. Help us to be people of hope, joy, and reconciliation in the days ahead. Give us wise and discerning hearts as we live out your call in our lives. And we thank you that we are not alone. You have called us into community; help us to be disciples who love one another as you have loved us. Amen.