

<b>Welcome</b>	It's your next 'big' birthday (ending in a '0') and your family has organised a surprise party for you. A friend is asked to say a few words: with 5 minutes notice they ask you(!) for some headings – what three words would you write down? (NB remember your "age"!)
<b>Worship ideas</b>	Choose a song of praise (truths about God), a song of <u>adoration</u> (love song to God), and a song of <u>commitment</u> (mainly about our response to God)
<b>Word (refs.↓)</b>	<i>some suggestions for discussion here</i>
Phil. 1:18c-20 <b>'courage'</b>	Paul here talks about "being full of courage so that with my whole being I will bring honour to Christ, whether I live or die" (GNB). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How was that true for him (remember he was in prison awaiting trial)?</li> <li>• How would that have encouraged the people to whom he was writing?</li> <li>• How do these words challenge <u>you</u>?</li> </ul>
Phil. 1:21-26 <b>'Christ'</b>	Try and commit this verse and reference to memory: 'For me to live is Christ, to die is gain' (Philippians. 1:21) Which of these translations best brings out the meaning for you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>† 'For what is life? To me, it is Christ. Death, then will bring more.' (Good News)</li> <li>† 'For me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better' (New Living)</li> <li>† "Alive, I'm Christ's messenger; dead, I'm his bounty. Life versus even more life! I can't lose." (The Message)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In v. 23 Paul says that 'being with Christ (i.e. dying) is better by far?' – why then in vv.25 &amp; 27 does he express the hope that he will see his readers again?</li> <li>• How would you respond to someone who (eg on a hospital visit) says they wish they could go to be with the Lord tonight - and then asks you to pray with them?</li> </ul>
Phil. 1:21	"To die is gain". Is there anything in your life as a group, or in our life as a church, where we may need to let something 'die' in order to make way for something better? What might that thing that needs to die - and that better thing - be?
Phil. 1:27-30 <b>'conduct'</b>	Why does daily conduct (including what we do behind closed doors) matter for Christians? Surely all that's important is to 'stand firm in the one Spirit, striving for the faith of the gospel' and 'to believe on him' (vv.27, 29). Are God and your conscience the <u>only</u> reasons to 'practice what you preach'. What other reason could there be to 'order your private world' according to what the Bible teaches?
<b>Witness</b>	<b>Discuss</b> how as a group you might want to support some of the church's outreach ministries and events coming up in the area, eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Children's half-term holiday club (21-25 Feb)</li> <li>✓ The pancake party in the Village Hall (8 March NB <i>not 18<sup>th</sup> Feb as in the magazine!</i>)</li> <li>✓ Our Youthworker Hellen's ministry in schools &amp; youth groups (<i>offering lifts, hospitality, prayer support, etc.</i>)</li> </ul> <b>Pray</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ for your mission link person(s) or project</li> <li>❖ for those who are close to death, or wishing for death, that they may know the truth of Philippians 1:21</li> <li>❖ for opportunities to explain to others this week what you understand about your hope for life after death</li> </ul>