

AMBASSADORS for the KINGDOM

A study
in the book
of Philippians

Part 1: The Author and Finisher

Philippians 1:1-6

Note: We have provided more questions here than you will likely need. Please pick and choose the questions you think will create the best discussion in your group, and don't feel like you need to discuss every question.

Ask

Share a time in your life when you started a project or new hobby but then didn't finish it or gave up on it quickly.

Discuss

Play

Watch the first video clip at www.bridgeway.church/aftk

Ask

- What does it mean to you that you are an ambassador of heaven? What privileges and responsibilities come with that title?
- In another part of the sermon, Pastor Lance said, "The best ambassador is one who embodies the home country." What are some practical ways that you, as an individual, family, or missional community, can embody heaven in your everyday life?

Read

Read Philippians 1:1-6

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every

prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Ask

- Paul and Timothy introduce themselves as “servants of Christ Jesus,” and then Pastor Lance showed us that ‘overseers’ and ‘deacons’ are those who care for and serve others in the church. What does that teach us about how Christian leadership is supposed to work? How can grasping for power and prestige get in the way of our ability to live out the gospel?

Play

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Ask

- What did you think of the club vs. co-op metaphor? Does it make sense? What questions or ideas does it raise for you?
- What problems arise if we treat the church like a club and not a co-op?
- How are you using your gifts, abilities and resources to contribute to what God is doing at Bridgeway? *Leader’s note: This question and the questions that follow are NOT meant to be some sort of guilt trip, and it’s not about evaluating who is contributing the most. The point of the question is for each person to consider their own gifting and consider how they’re using that gifting for the benefit of others.*
- If you don’t feel like you’re using your gifts anywhere, would it look like for you to begin to use your unique gifts in service to others?

Apply

Read

Re-read Philippians 1:6

- What does it mean to you that God will finish the work that He has started in you? How can that encourage you when progress seems slow and difficult?
- How can we encourage one another as we’re waiting for God to complete His work in us?

Close

Prayer

- Break into groups of 2-3, and have your group members share what it looks like for them to be an ambassador for the kingdom in their daily life, and share what kind of good work they feel God is doing in them. Close your time with each group praying for each other.