

It's A Love Story

2025-09-07 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Romans 1

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Paul opens his letter with warmth you can feel: I thank my God every time I remember you. Pastor Matt asked where affection like that comes from, and answered plainly: not from sitting in rows facing forward. The friendship between Paul and the Philippians was three things at once: rooted in the Bible, emotionally rich, and productive. Most of us settle for one of the three. And without those friends, Paul's whole ministry would have looked different.

To get started

- Who is someone you are genuinely glad to think about, and why?

Looking back at the message

The three-part test is the frame. Ask which one people have.

- 1 Pastor Matt described Paul's connection to the Philippians as three things at once: rooted in the Bible, emotionally rich, and productive. Which of the three does your closest community have, and which is missing?
- 2 Pastor Matt said affection like Paul's does not come from sitting in rows facing forward. Where does it come from?
- 3 Paul and the Philippians were not family; the bond was built entirely in Christ. What does that open up for people whose own family is distant? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Philippians 1:3-11 aloud. Paul is unusually warm here.

- 4 Read Philippians 1:3-5. What does Paul thank God for, and how often does he do it?
- 5 Verse 7 says he holds them in his heart. What reason does he give?
- 6 Verses 9-11 are a prayer. What does Paul actually ask God to give them?
- 7 Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. How did the Macedonian churches give, and out of what?

OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Some people here are isolated and will not say so. Make it easy.

- 8 Pastor Matt asked what would have happened to Paul without this community. What would be missing from your life without yours?
- 9 Why is it so hard for adults to build friendships like this?
- 10 What would you actually want a group like this to do for you?
- 11 How much more isolated are you than you usually admit? OPTIONAL

The group together

This is the most self-referential of the four sections. Use it.

- 12 Of the three qualities, which does this group most need to grow in?
- 13 What has this group produced so far, beyond meeting?
- 14 Who do you know who is in no community at all, and what would inviting them take?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Who could you tell this week that you are glad they exist, and what has stopped you from saying it?

You might pray about

- For those who are isolated and have stopped expecting anything else
- For friendships that are rooted and not only pleasant
- For this group to produce something rather than only gather
- For gratitude expressed rather than only felt