



**theme:** Identity #4 – To Live is Christ  
**materials:** Pencils, paper, bibles

## welcome

This could seem morbid, but it's not meant to be. What would you like to have written on your gravestone about your life, or what would you like someone to say in your eulogy? Write it down and share it with the cell.

## interact

If you were to die today, what would you have in your life to thank God for? Speak out for each other the things that you are thankful right now to God for, and the good things He has done in your life. Is it enough for you, what He has done, or do you want more from God?

## read

Read out Philippians 1:19-2:11.

What does Paul mean when he says "for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"?

What, for Paul, was the benefit of continuing on in life? (v.22, 24-26)

What would be the benefit of death? (v.23)

Do you agree with what Paul writes about this?

Would you say that you are living for Christ, or that your manner of life is worthy of the gospel of Christ? What does that mean?

In chapter 2 Paul talks about having one mind together, the mind of Christ. What, according to Paul, does this mean?

What would a community that shared the mind of Christ look like today?

Have a discussion around this, thinking about how people would treat each other in this type of community. Is there anything about your identity that would have to be changed?

Is having such an identity as a community even possible? Or is it just wishful thinking?

## think

Get a head start on the promise of verses 10-11. Every time you see someone from your cell this week, remind them of the name of Jesus. Every time you are reminded of the name of Jesus, bow your knee and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## live & pray

Go out of your way to be a servant this week, and try to do so anonymously. Try and commit small and large acts of kindness this week without anyone knowing it is you doing it.



## useful resources

Book: *Life Together*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Website: [www.ordinaryradical.org](http://www.ordinaryradical.org)

Movie: *Charlotte's Web* – The new live action version has some great justice moments, and community lessons.

## leader's guide

Paul was telling the Church in Philippi that he wanted to keep on living so that he could come to them and continue to minister to them and be blessed by them. But he also had a great longing in him to go and be with Christ, most likely as a martyr. The possibility was very real that he would be martyred for Christ, and he was perfectly okay with that, was looking forward to it in fact. But he was also torn with a desire to continue Christ's work on earth.

Having one mind in Christ meant that as individuals, and as a Christian community, they would try to be as Christ-like as possible in all ways. So they would esteem one another more than themselves, have great humility, work for other's wellbeing, and serve each other with great love. This would even, it is implied, be love to the point of death, if that was required.

No community is perfect, nor should community be looked in order to fulfil the needs that only Christ can fulfil. Nevertheless, Christian community is meant to be marked by radical forgiveness, grace, service, love and humility. Where it is not it can do a great disservice to the name of Christ.