



**Looking Inwards** (15 mins)  
*Caring For Each Other*

*Reflecting on your life at the moment, is there anything you would like to share with other members of your home group which you feel is appropriate (this is an opportunity to share, not something you have to do, however, 'It's the sharing that enables the caring!') for:*

- Thanksgiving?
- Prayer?
- Encouragement?
- Support in any way?



**Looking Outwards** (15 mins)  
*Concern For Others*

*Is there anything concerning someone in your: family; circle of friends; neighbours or church, which you would like to share (please be sure not pass on anything that is confidential or which you think the person concerned would not wish to be shared) for:*

- Thanksgiving?
- Prayer?
- Encouragement?
- Support in any way?

**emmanuelchurchbillericay**

P 01277 632120      E [emmanueloffice@billericaychurches.org](mailto:emmanueloffice@billericaychurches.org)  
W [www.emmanuel-church.info](http://www.emmanuel-church.info)      T @EmmanuelCM12



*A Season Of Celebration*  
**HG147 Hope For The Future**

Philippians 3:12-4:1

Home Group Study Notes

9 July 2017 - Ven Elwin Cockett



**PLEASE COMPLETE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN ON THIS WORKSHEET IN PREPARATION BEFORE THE MEETING!**

*Don't forget to take your Bible to Home Group with you, along with any previous notes and other resources which might be helpful for your discussions.*



**Welcome** (10 mins)  
*Ice Breaker*

As we welcome back former Team Rector, Elwin Cockett, to Emmanuel, what memories do you have of Elwin's ministry amongst us? If you weren't a member of Emmanuel during that time, what have you picked up from others?



**Looking Upwards** (10 mins)  
*Worship*

In your time of worship, you may want to sing Songs of Praise; listen to a Worship CD, as well as using Meditations; Bible Readings; Prayers ...



## Looking Upwards (40 mins) *Bible Study*

Read the text for this study, and any references given, then answer the following questions. You may find it helpful to listen to the sermon and/or read through the sermon notes as you do so. Discuss some, or all, your answers with your Home Group and, remember, these questions are only a guide to start your discussions.

In this encouraging passage, the Apostle Paul gives us **Hope For The Future**.

We can certainly give thanks for the past, as Emmanuel Church has been doing this Summer. Nevertheless, Paul warns us gently not to get stuck in it, but rather to look forward to whatever God has in store for us. He reminds us, if we needed reminding, that none of us is the finished article; we are all on a journey - in training, if you like, for Heaven.

In the meantime, because none of us is perfect yet, there are bound to be things over which Christians disagree. That's ok! Our response should be to pray for and love those with whom we disagree, and to ask God to mould us and gently deal with us when we get things wrong.

We can all give thanks for many of the people we have encountered at Emmanuel over the years. Some have gone to glory, some are still doing great things here. They have been role models and an encouragement to many. It is good to consider from time to time who we are seeking to emulate, whether consciously or unconsciously, day by day.

It is one of the privileges of having been a Christian for along time that we see the people we have loved over the years blossom and flourish; *they* become 'our joy and crown'. That's true in families, and all the more so in the family of God's people – and in the family that Emmanuel church has been over the past 25 years. It is good, therefore, to give thanks to God for each other as we encourage one another in our trust in Jesus Christ and his transforming love.

1) Where does your hope lie? What are you trusting in for your future happiness?

2) What do you need to do to improve your spiritual fitness? How often do you read your Bible? How often do you pray?

3) What have you argued about recently? Who, and what, do you need to pray about? Have you allowed God to guide you?

4) Who are your role models in life? How do they measure up to a biblical model of what matters in life?

5) Do you thank God for other people and pray for them? What can you do to encourage them?



Is there anything you most want to put into practice as a result of this study?