

## Philippians: Finding Joy Right Where You Are!

### Key Scriptures

Phil. 1:1-11 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

<sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

<sup>5</sup> for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

<sup>6</sup> being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

<sup>7</sup> just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

### Key Point

Jesus is the source of joy!

## TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Have any of your good friends ever told you what they appreciate about you? Have you ever listened while others prayed for you? If so, you know what a warm feeling it is to be assured that others care.

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Kyle clarified the definitions of three words: Bondslave, Saint, and Fellowship. What do each of these terms mean?
- What are Paul's feelings toward the Philippians (vv. 3–8)? Why does he feel this way about them?
- How is God at work in a believer's life according to verses 6 and 9-11? How does this make you feel about uncertainties in your life?
- What does Paul's prayer in 1:1-11 teach us about how we should pray for others?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Do you think our love and concern for others can be measured by how much we pray for them? Explain.
- Of the Prayer requests in 9-11, which areas are the most needful in your life right now?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Using Paul's prayer as a model, note some of the things Paul prays for in v. 1-11 and pray these specific things for your group and for the church.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Have you read through Philippians? This week take some time to read ahead, and mark out any passages you may want to commit to memory.