

Philippians: Finding Joy Right Where You Are!

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

Phil. 1:12-18 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.

¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

Key Point

Jesus is the source of joy!

God always has a redeeming purpose in our trials. The gospel transcends all circumstances.

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- When you have had a bad day, what do you do?
- Are you the kind of person who sees the glass half-empty or half-full?

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

- Kyle spent a lot of time looking into Paul's history to discover the things that the Philippians heard about Paul. What kinds of things did Paul go through? (His story is found in Acts 21-28)
- How does Paul decide whether an event (like his jailing) is good or bad? How would this example encourage others?
- What motives for preaching does Paul speak of?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Have you ever been critical of the motives or methods of certain evangelists? If so, explain why.
- How does your attitude compare to Paul's (vv. 15–18)?
- Kyle shared his theory of what it meant that some were preaching out of envy, rivalry, and selfish ambition. Do you have any other theories at what may have been happening?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- What are the things that have happened recently that you can rejoice in? Take some time to praise God and thank Him.

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

- If you have not read through Philippians, it does not take long. This week take some time to read ahead and mark out any passages you may want to commit to memory.