

# PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18 / MAY 24

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Read & Pray

This week's sermon is on Philippians 1:12-18. As a group, read these verses. This passage highlights Paul's joy and gospel-centered perspective even in the midst of suffering and opposition. After reading, spend a minute praying, then ask, *What stands out to you? What might the Spirit be pressing into your life?* Close by asking God to help you see every circumstance as an opportunity to advance the gospel.

### Sermon Recap (to *apply*, not rehash the sermon)

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- Joy is not dependent on circumstances but on a gospel-centered perspective.
- Paul saw even prison as a mission field and an opportunity to advance the gospel.
- Every follower of Jesus is a missionary, regardless of vocation or season of life.
- Difficult circumstances and difficult people can become opportunities for gospel witness.
- The gospel enables us to respond to hardship and opposition with joy instead of bitterness.

### Group Discussion

1. Paul says that his imprisonment actually served to advance the gospel (Philippians 1:12). Why is that perspective so difficult for us to adopt in hard seasons?
2. The sermon emphasized that every Christian is a missionary. How does that reshape the way you think about your workplace, school, neighborhood, or current season of life?
3. Paul viewed difficult circumstances as mission fields instead of interruptions. What hard circumstance in your life right now might God want to use for gospel purposes?
4. In verses 15-18, Paul responds surprisingly calmly to people with selfish motives because "Christ is proclaimed." Why is it often harder to deal with difficult people than difficult circumstances?
5. The sermon pointed to Jesus as the ultimate example of responding to opposition with grace and love. How does remembering Christ's patience toward you change the way you respond to people who hurt or frustrate you?

#### DIG DEEPER

Paul repeatedly interprets his suffering through the lens of gospel advancement rather than personal comfort. What does this reveal about Paul's priorities, and what priorities does it expose in your own heart?

In verse 14, Paul says his imprisonment actually made other believers more bold. How can faithfulness in suffering strengthen and encourage the faith of others around us?

#### PRAYER

- Ask God to help you see every circumstance in your life through the lens of gospel opportunity rather than personal inconvenience.
- Pray for courage to live as a missionary wherever God has placed you right now.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with the joy of Christ so that even hardship and opposition become opportunities to display the gospel.