

joy / full

a study in philippians

GROUP GUIDE

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

Chains, Ambition, Freedom // November 3, 2024

1. When you think of the word "freedom," what comes to mind? When have you felt most "free" in your life?
2. Read Philippians 1:12-13. While in a Roman prison, Paul explains that his chains have helped people see Jesus.
 - a. How familiar are you with stories of persecution? Have you heard about it through friends? Walked with those who have been persecuted? Experienced it yourself? Share these stories with the group.
 - b. Paul experienced literal chains. In much of the Western world, this is foreign to us. In what ways do we still experience "chains" today? In other words, how can our faith lead us into circumstances that are painful, humiliating, and/or restrictive?
3. Read Philippians 1:14. Paul suggests there's a direct connection between boldly suffering for our faith and inspiring others to proclaim the gospel. Do you think this is still true today? Why or why not?
4. Read Philippians 1:15-17. It seems like Paul is surrounded by Christians who are competing with one another. In what ways do you see competition still affecting Jesus' disciples today?
5. Read Philippians 1:18. Paul models a life without ambition (and thus a life without the chains of sin) by celebrating those who are attempting to stir up trouble for him.
 - a. How quick are you to celebrate others? How quick are you to celebrate those who have frustrated you?
 - b. Make a commitment to intentionally celebrate someone this week. Next time you're together, share about the experience.
6. Sunday was International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. On top of your typical prayer requests, spend time praying for those around the world facing persecution.



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[LEADERS NOTES]

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU FOLLOW JESUS

- centralheights.ca/followjesus

STORIES

- We love hearing how God moves in people's lives. If you or anyone in your group has a story and would be willing to share, we'd love to hear it and celebrate with you. You can share your story by emailing stories@centralheights.ca

MESSAGE Video and Audio can be found at:

<https://www.centralheights.ca/currentseries>