

## TALK IT OVER

How did everyone's action step/s go this week? What progress did you make? (We want to shepherd our few really well. Hold people accountable to what God is calling them to but do so out of love.)

Read Philippians 1 (Passage is on 2nd page. This is from The New Living version. Feel free to use or read from your own Bible/app. This is going to be a hard topic for some of your few. Be sensitive to how you ask questions and guide the discussion. You will have people in your few that prayed for healing and didn't get it. Don't placate them with common church sayings such as "It's all part of God's plan". Sometimes the best thing to say is nothing. Pray for discernment and the Holy Spirit's guidance.). Once you've read the passage ask these questions:

- What new thing did you discover in the story that you did not now before?
- What did you learn about God? (Abby said that God wants more for us. Do you agree with that? Why or why not? She also said that our expectations doesn't shape God's ability, instead it limits us. What do you think about that? Does having lower expectation of God limit our faith? If so how? Abby gave several examples of people living out big expectations of God and what happened. Do you think if we lived like that God would respond the same? Why/why not?)
- What did you learn about people? (Abby read the passage where Paul says "To live is Christ, to die is gain". What does Paul mean? What does that mean for us today? Read Luke 18:5- Why does Jesus tell this story? What does that mean for us? How does being like this change our faith or does it? Abby said that the we should let the process refine us rather than define us. How does the process of waiting on God do that? Why is Paul able to say what he says in Philippians 1 and Abby able to say what she does? What did the awaiting process do to/through them? Does that encourage you in your waiting season?)
- What will you take away from this discussion? (This series has been difficult. We all have people, in our lives, that need healing. Yet not all of them have received that. After walking through the past month what will you take away from this? Has your view of healing and God changed? How? How did walking through this strengthen your faith?)
- What will you do with what you have learned? (Do you need to raise your expectations of God? If so, how? Have you changed how you pray about/for healing? What will you do differently because of what you've learned?)
- Is there anything else you wanted to share that we didn't hit in this discussion?
- Next week make sure to read Hosea 14. Think through the questions we ask weekly as you read.

Make sure to check in with your SG this week. How can you pray for them? This is where the discipleship aspect comes in. Work towards identifying your 3 (that you can really pour into) and then your 1 (that person that will replicate what you're doing now). Take a few minutes each day and make a text or phone call to everyone in the group.

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Make sure to read ahead of time and either retell the story or have someone (multiple people) help you retelling the story. Make sure to use your update with points from Abby's sermon.

### Philippians 1

This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus.

I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders<sup>[a]</sup> and deacons.

<sup>2</sup> May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

### Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer

<sup>3</sup> Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. <sup>4</sup> Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, <sup>5</sup> for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. <sup>6</sup> And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

<sup>7</sup> So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. <sup>8</sup> God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. <sup>10</sup> For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. <sup>11</sup> May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ<sup>[b]</sup>—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

### Paul's Joy That Christ Is Preached

<sup>12</sup> And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[c]</sup> that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. <sup>13</sup> For everyone here, including the whole palace guard,<sup>[d]</sup> knows that I am in chains because of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers<sup>[e]</sup> here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message<sup>[f]</sup> without fear.

<sup>15</sup> It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. <sup>16</sup> They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. <sup>17</sup> Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. <sup>18</sup> But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice. <sup>19</sup> For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.

### Paul's Life for Christ

<sup>20</sup> For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. <sup>22</sup> But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. <sup>23</sup> I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. <sup>24</sup> But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

<sup>25</sup> Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. <sup>26</sup> And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.



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## **Live as Citizens of Heaven**

<sup>27</sup> Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. <sup>28</sup> Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself.

<sup>29</sup> For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. <sup>30</sup> We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.