

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 8-14, 2024

## “JOY IN ADVERSITY”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is one thing that you are thankful for today?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

**Read Philippians 1:12-18.**

1. What exactly did Paul mean when he said, “What has happened to me” (verse 12)? What do you learn about Paul’s sense of mission in these verses?
2. What does Paul say about God and about realities of life in this earth that we need to be reminded of?
3. Paul obviously did not shy away from sharing the gospel even while imprisoned. When was the last time you shared your faith to others? What are some barriers you face when trying to share your faith? How would you overcome these barriers?
4. How do you respond when Paul rejoices in the growth of the Philippian church despite some are preaching out of envy? Can you share a personal experience that is similar to this? Did you react with rejoicing or not? What would be a personal lesson that you can share to the group?
5. What do you think Paul meant when he said some preached Christ out of envy and strife? How would you describe his attitude in verse 18?
6. What situation do you feel stuck in today? What do you learn about Christian living from Paul’s example?

7. Do you believe in the centrality of the gospel? As a Christian, why is it easy to agree to this and yet not live it? What are some specific steps that you can take in order to live the gospel and be a testimony of the gospel to others?

### NEXT STEPS

- I will seek opportunities to share the gospel to others.
- I will rejoice even in adversities.
- I will entrust people who are against me to the Lord.
- I will look to God’s sovereignty in my circumstances.

*Don’t forget to:*

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.

### CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a heart of joy and submission to God no matter what circumstance.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

### BIBLE READING GUIDE

September 9	Philippians 1:12-14
September 10	Philippians 1:15-20
September 11	Colossians 4:2-6
September 12	Acts 28:17-31
September 13	Psalms 73:12-28
September 14	Psalms 24:1-10
September 15	Proverbs 16:16-22