



"And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News.

Philippians 1:12



Get to Know You: If your life were a story, what title might describe the current chapter? ("The Waiting Room," "The Comeback," "Lessons Learned," etc.)

- 1. Read Philippians 1:12–14.** Paul saw his imprisonment as an opportunity for the Gospel. Paul states that "everyone here—including the whole palace guard" knew why he was in prison--what was the reason? The way we endure our circumstances does not go unnoticed—it becomes part of our testimony. Thinking of your life—how has God used a painful situation you have experienced to showcase your faith to those watching? Share a time when you gained confidence in your faith by observing the faith of someone else going through a difficult time?
- 2. Read Acts 5:27-42.** In the preceding verses, Peter and John were jailed for preaching Jesus. Upon being freed by an Angel of the Lord, they were found in the city centre preaching again. What was their message and what was the outcome? Has there ever been a time when someone tried to keep you from sharing your faith? How did you respond? How can we have a perspective like Peter and John when we experience everyday painful circumstances?

3. **Read Philippians 1:15–19.** Paul faced people who were jealous and competitive. How did he keep his focus on Jesus instead of his critics? How can you guard your focus when others misunderstand or criticize you?
4. **Read Philippians 1:20–26.** What was Paul's hope for himself in v. 20? If we reflect upon Paul's statement: "To live is Christ, to die is gain," how might this shape our attitude toward suffering, fear, and purpose? What impact do you think this would have on your personal boldness of living for Jesus 'even if...'?
5. **Read Philippians 1:27–28.** Paul calls believers to live as "citizens of heaven" and stand UNITED. Why is unity so essential when life hurts or opposition comes? How can we as a church 'fight *together*' and be there for one another when struggles happen?
6. **Read Philippians 1:29–30.** Paul calls suffering a *privilege*. How can we see hardship as a gift rather than just a burden? How has pain shaped your spiritual growth or compassion for others?
7. **Read Galatians 6:1-5.** Often in life we are so wrapped up in our own struggles that we forget others are struggling, too. It can make us a bit intolerant or judgmental towards others or make church an unsafe place to be authentic. How can we foster an attitude of true authenticity where people feel safe to share their real struggles and find support? How can we live out the 'law of Christ' in such a way that strengthens us AND our community 'even if'?

