

**I. Synopsis**

During the month of October we will look at Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. This is a church that Paul planted during his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey. Ten years later, while he is imprisoned, he writes to those he dearly loves in Philippi as a way to encourage them. His words of encouragement speak to us today. Paul tells us who we are because of what Jesus did for them on the cross.

**II. Ice Breaker Question**

If you heard a loved one was imprisoned in a foreign country due to his/her faith how would you respond?

III. **Scripture:** Philippians 1:1-11 (ESV)

**IV. Discussion Questions**

1. Read about the formation of the church in Philippi, Acts 16:6-40 (ESV). How does Act record people meeting Jesus as their Lord and Savior? How do you suppose these new believers felt about Paul as their leader?
2. Paul addresses the letter to "all the saints" Philippians 1:1. What does the word saint mean to you? Who do you think of as a saint?
3. The Greek word for saint is "hagioi," which means holy one, set apart. Jesus is the One who makes it possible for us to be set apart through His work on the cross. Are you able to receive the fact that you are a saint? Discuss your answer.
4. The main verse in Philippians, "he [Jesus] who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" Philippians 1:6 (NIV). This verse tells us that Jesus will be with us through everything we face in life. Paul witnessed this in his life through his imprisonment. What circumstances in your life have you wondered where is Jesus? Are you able to share a situation in your life where you had confidence that Jesus was present in spite of your circumstances?