

I. Synopsis

During the month of October we will look at Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. This is a church, which Paul planted during his 2nd missionary journey. Ten years later he writes to those he dearly loves in Philippi as a way to encourage them. His words of encouragement speak to us today. Paul challenges us to have an eternal perspective on our lives.

II. Ice Breaker Question

What do you think life in prison would be like? What would be most difficult for you, if you had to spend time behind bars?

III. Scripture: Philippians 1:12-26 (ESV)**IV. Discussion Questions**

1. Paul is considered the architect of the church. As an apostle, his role was to GO and share the Good News of Jesus to those throughout the known world. How would you think Paul's role could be impacted by the fact that he was imprisoned? Based on this passage how does the Gospel advance? What does this tell us about God?
2. Fourteen times throughout this letter, Paul uses a form of the word joy. Why do you suppose Paul is able to rejoice regardless of his circumstances? How does this inspire you?
3. Max Lucado states, "We can either wear our hurt or wear our hope" (*Anxious for Nothing*, 59). Discuss what this statement means in light of Paul's circumstances and his countenance. Share a time you were able to "wear hope" in a difficult situation. How did this change the way you walked through the situation.
4. As you read Philippians 1:20-24 listen to hear Paul's intense love for Jesus. What do you think Paul meant when he states, "For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain" (vs. 21)? What do you think it means to have an eternal perspective on life? How might that change the way you live each day?

Lucado, Max, *Anxious for Nothing*; Thomas Nelson: Nashville, TN, 2017.