Philippians
Week One

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Philippians

Day 1

- Read the entire book of Philippians. (Don't worry it's only 4 short chapters).
- Jesus is the center of this letter. No other noun occurs more than his name. Every time you come to a name of Jesus underline it.
- Joy is a refrain that runs throughout this letter. Underline every form of the word joy (i.e. Rejoice etc.).

Spend time in prayer asking God to work in your heart through Philippians so that you will come to count everything as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus and that your life will daily reflect the infinite worth of Jesus.

Day 2- Philippians 1-4 Overview

1. Write down evidence you see throughout the letter to the Philippians of Paul's affection for the Philippians and what characterizes his relationship with them.

2. Find an example of joy...

   in suffering (Ch. 1)-

in serving (Ch.2)-

in believing (Ch. 3)-

in giving (Ch. 4)-

3. The word *gospel* occurs proportionally more in this letter than any other letter. *Gospel* means *good news.* Write a summary of what the good news is, in three sentences or less. (Use these verses for help if needed:

Day 3- Philippians 1:1-2

4. How does Paul identify himself and Timothy in verse 1? What significance do you see in this?

♡ What are some ways we identify ourselves, or ways we see ourselves that are **not** helpful to living for Jesus?

How would seeing your identity as a servant/slave of Jesus change the way you interact with your family, neighbors, and fellow believers?

Digging Deeper: Look at the greetings Paul writes in his other letters. (Romans, 1,2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1,2 Thessalonians, Titus, Philemon) What designation of himself does Paul leave out of his greeting to the Philippians that he includes in all of his other letters except for Thessalonians and Philemon? What might this indicate about his relationship with the Philippians?

5. Who is Paul writing this letter to?

Scholar's Note: *Saints* is a way to refer to believers, reminding them of their unity as people whom God has called and set apart to be his treasured possession. –Frank Thielman, The NIV Application Commentary.

Day 4- Acts 16:6-40

To gain context about who the Philippians are and how Paul came to know them, read Acts 16:6-40

6. According to Acts 16:6-12. Why did Paul go to Philippi? (Macedonia is Northern Greece)

7. Describe Philippi from the information in Acts 16:12.

8. According to Acts 16:13, who were the first group of people that Paul preached the gospel to in Philippi?

9. Describe Lydia, the first convert in Philippi.

For Discussion: Acts 16:14 tells us that Lydia was a worshipper of God. How is that different from being a Christian?

Day 5- Acts 16:6-40

10. What happened to Paul and Silas while they were in Philippi, according to Acts 16:16-24? List all the suffering they endured.

11. What would have been a normal reaction to the circumstances Paul and Silas were in, in verses 25-29?

12. How do Paul and Silas make God look great in verse 25-29?

13. What affect does this have on the jailer in verses 30-34?

In Philippians 4:9 Paul tells the Philippians to live the way they have seen him living. When they first met Paul, about ten years before he wrote them this letter, these brand new believers got to see up close and personal how much Paul valued the gospel that he had just shared with them. They had seen Paul live what he was encouraging them to do in his letter to them. Paul's manner of life is worthy of the gospel; he makes Jesus look magnificent by praising him while he is suffering for him. He shows that Jesus is worth it. He is to be valued more than comfort and even freedom- that is what a treasure Jesus is. Paul's life highlights the worth of Jesus.

Reflect on these questions:

- ❖ As the people in your family and community watch you navigate the circumstances of life are you making Jesus look good?

- ❖ What do you think people would say you treasure the most by the way you live and speak and respond to difficult circumstances?

- ❖ Do you think it seems impossible to face suffering with joy the way Paul did?

- ❖ Why do you think Paul was able to face suffering with joy?

14. Three groups of believers have been born in Paul's short stay in Philippi. Lydia and her household, the jailer and his household and probably the slave girl as well. One of the themes we will explore in Philippians is Christian unity and fellowship. Describe the apparent differences (i.e. ethnic, economic, spiritual,) between these groups of people who are now believers. How does the gospel overcome these differences?

<u>One Thing</u>: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?