

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Choosing Joy

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Partner in the Gospel

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Memory Verse: Philippians 4:8 NIV

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: A genuine faith is evidenced by the proclamation and support of the gospel.

Read Philippians 1:1-7

1. As the book of Acts records, Paul did not initially intend to go to Philippi. The Spirit of God did not let him go to the other places he wanted to go. How easy or difficult is it for you to perceive God's leading? How do you respond to spiritual direction?
2. Paul and Timothy introduce themselves as servants of Christ Jesus (v 1). If someone asked you, "What are you a servant to?" what would your honest answer be (e.g., your job, your family, a hobby, your fears, or Christ)? How can our daily life reflect an identity as a servant of Christ?
3. The believers in Philippi are called "holy people" (v 1). What is the difference between being declared holy (our position in Christ) and living a holy life (our daily practice)? Who in your life could be encouraged this week by being reminded of who they are in Christ?
4. Paul's opening greeting (v 2) may seem archaic to us but he is reminding the believers of what they have in Christ. When considering **grace** (unmerited favor) and **peace** (reconciliation and wholeness) which do you find yourself



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needing most right now? We are called to extend grace to others because we have received it from God. Who is one person in your life right now with whom you find it most difficult to be gracious? What might it look like to consciously extend God's grace to them this week?

5. Paul writes this from prison, yet his overriding emotion is thanksgiving (v 3). When your life is not playing out as you'd expect, how good are you at expressing thanks? What is the biggest challenge or difficult circumstance you are currently facing? How can you shift your focus to find reasons for thanking God in or through that situation?
6. Paul mentions he prays for the Philippians consistently (v 4). Who are the people God has laid on your heart to pray for regularly? How often and for what reasons do you typically go to God in prayer? What impact do you believe prayer can have?
7. Paul considers the Philippian church as partners in the gospel (v 5). How have you experienced the joy of partnering with others for the cause of Christ? When you think about your own life, would you say you relate more as a *consumer* of ministry or a *partner* in ministry? Why? What might "partnership in the gospel" look like for you at NCBC in this season?
8. God is always faithful and will see through to completion anything that He begins (v 6). Do you ever struggle to believe that God will "carry it on to completion" in you? What situations tend to trigger that doubt?



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