

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Choosing Joy

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: The Gospel is Greater

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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: The gospel is greater than our rights, freedom, ego, reputation, ambition, and physical life.

Read Philippians 1:8-26

1. Because of the common bond of Christ, the relationships we make with other believers can be very strong (v 8). Why do you think relationships rooted in Jesus often feel different than other friendships? Who has shown you “the affection of Christ,” and how did God use that person in your life?
2. Paul and Timothy pray that the believers in Philippi continue to grow and develop in their faith (vv 9-11) . How much time do you spend in prayer? What does the content of your prayers normally consist of? What can we learn about prayer from these verses?
3. What we might see as a bad or difficult situation, Paul says, has been good because it has resulted in the advance of the gospel (vv 12-13). Our vision is to reach people who are far from God. How does Paul’s situation challenge how we define “effective ministry?” How can you see a current hardship you are experiencing as an opportunity to advance the gospel?



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4. The impact of Paul's imprisonment has also spurred greater boldness in others (v 14). The example we set (whether good or bad) is what others will mimic. How does seeing or hearing about someone else's courageous faith help others be more courageous? Share a personal story of courage with your group. How do you think your story could encourage others at NCBC? Would you be willing to share it with our staff so we can share it with others? (If so, please send it to communications@ncbc.church).
5. There were some people sharing the true gospel with misguided motives (v 17). What are your motives when sharing the gospel with non-believers? What are some examples of how we can be doing the right thing for the wrong reasons? What heart motives should drive our passion for sharing Jesus?
6. Paul believes God's help and/or supply (v 19) may not remove the trial, but will enable faithfulness in the trial. Where are you tempted to believe, "If God doesn't change my situation, He isn't coming through"? Paul says the church's prayers play a role in this (v 19). How have you experienced the strengthening power of other believers praying for you?
7. Fear and shame can be crippling. We see Paul speaking against that, challenging us to not be ashamed and to have boldness in honoring Christ. When have you felt hesitation to speak up or act because you were worried about how others might respond? What helps you move from fear to boldness?
8. Paul is convinced that he has more work to do that will result in others' spiritual growth and development (vv 24-26). Everyone, regardless of how long they have been a believer, can have a gospel impact in someone else's life. How are you, or how would you like to, play a role in helping someone grow in their faith? When this happens, what does it look like to celebrate gospel fruit?



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