

# PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11 / MAY 17

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Read & Pray

This week's sermon is on Philippians 1:1-11. As a group, read these verses. This passage highlights Paul's gratitude, love, and confidence in God's promises even while suffering. After reading, spend a minute praying, then ask, *What stands out to you? What might the Spirit be pressing into your life?* Close by asking God to form true joy in you through the gospel.

### Sermon Recap (to *apply*, not rehash the sermon)

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- The "good life" is not ultimately found in success, comfort, freedom, or self-improvement, but in Christ.
- Gratitude is a practice we cultivate, not merely a feeling we wait for.
- Gratitude grows when we see life through the lens of God's grace and providence.
- True joy is rooted in love for God and others, not self-centered living.
- God always finishes the good work he begins in his people.

### Group Discussion

1. Our culture offers many different definitions of "the good life." What are you most tempted to believe will finally satisfy you or make you happy?
2. Paul writes this joy-filled letter from prison. What does this gratitude in difficult circumstances teach us about the difference between joy and happiness?
3. The sermon emphasized that gratitude is a practice, not just a feeling. What are some practical ways you can intentionally cultivate gratitude in your daily life?
4. Paul viewed even his imprisonment through the lens of God's providence and grace. Where in your life is it hardest to trust that God is working for good right now?
5. Philippians 1:6 says that God will complete the work he began in us. How does trusting God's promises give you hope and endurance when you feel discouraged or spiritually stuck?

#### DIG DEEPER

Paul thanks God for the Philippians while sitting in prison (Philippians 1:3-5). What does this reveal about the source of Paul's joy and gratitude?

How does remembering God's past faithfulness and trusting his future promises help cultivate gratitude in the present?

#### PRAYER

- Ask God to cultivate a heart of gratitude that sees life through the lens of grace rather than entitlement.
- Pray that God would deepen your love for him and for others, making joy grow in your heart through selfless love.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your confidence in God's promises, trusting that he will complete the good work he began in you.