

# METAMORPHOSIS

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### DISCUSSION GOAL



*Discuss the ability to see adversity as an opportunity for gospel advancement. Discuss how to rejoice in gospel proclamation and in all circumstances.*

### ICE BREAKER



What are some things that consistently bring you joy? What is something that can change your mood from sad/mad to happy in an instant?

### TEXT



*Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.*

Philippians 1:12 – 21

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

<sup>15</sup> Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. <sup>16</sup> The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. <sup>18</sup> What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, <sup>19</sup> for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup> as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



*This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.*

Big Idea: See adversity as opportunity for gospel advancement.

Key Question: How can we experience adversity as opportunity?

1. Remember endurance inspires faith. (vv. 12 - 14)
2. Rejoice in gospel proclamation. (vv. 15 – 18a)
3. Realize adversity is a win-win. (vv. 18b - 21)

## DISCUSSION



- Have you faced any adversity for spreading the gospel? What did it look like and how did you respond?
- In verses 13-14, Paul focuses on how his challenging circumstances actually helped many others. How can focusing on others instead of yourself help you endure adversity?
- In verse 18, Paul states, “whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.” What practical steps can you take to rejoice in the proclamation of the Gospel.
- This passage ends with Paul stating, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Is it difficult for you to be able to say the same thing? Why or why not? Do you view adversity as a win-win situation?
- Read Philippians 4:4-7. How can we practice rejoicing in every circumstance, as Paul did, even when facing significant challenges or opposition?

## LIFE APPLICATION



Paul’s response to facing adversity in the spreading of the gospel is to focus on others and rejoice. As a group discuss what you can do this week to seek to rejoice in all situations and support each other through adversity.

*Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.*

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## PRAYER REQUESTS



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