

# LIFE GROUP notes

12 November

## Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Joy in Christ – week 1



## Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member that Jesus is the One who gives us joy?
2. Where does joy come from according to the angel in Luke 2:10 – 11? **(From knowing Jesus as both Saviour and Lord.)**
3. Who is God according to Paul in v.1 – 11? **(Jesus Christ; mentioned 7 times.)**
4. What is Paul's answer in v.2 if someone says they do not deserve God's salvation, or they do not feel like a saint? **(Grace "God's free gift," to you, and peace "rest" from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.)**



## Let's go deeper

5. What does v.3 – 4 tell us about Paul's friends? **(I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ...making my prayer with joy.)**
6. What is Paul's encouragement to the church in v.6? **(I am sure of this, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion...)**
7. What is Paul's prayer in v.9? **(It is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.)**
8. Why was Paul put in prison v.13? **(It has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.)**



## Let's apply this

9. **Philippians 1:1 – 5**; Paul and Timothy, **servants of Christ Jesus**, to all the **saints in Christ Jesus** who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: **Grace to you** and **peace from God** our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my **remembrance of you**, always in **every prayer of mine** for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your **partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now.

- How can you meet the needs of your family, friends, or others this week?
- Do you see yourself more as a sinner or saint?
- Come join the corporate prayer meeting on Thursdays at 18:00.
- Take time this week to thank your godly and faithful friends for their support.

## SUMMARY:

**Joy in Christ:** Week 1

**Read:** Philippians 1:1 – 14 and Acts 16

In **Luke 2:10 – 11**, we read that "great" joy comes down with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus brings joy to the world, because joy is from the Lord. Jesus is our joy.

The Philippians church was planted by Paul and Silas as we read in **Acts 16:6 – 34**. This was the first church planted in what we would call Europe. Paul wrote this letter to the church when the church was about 10 years old, while he was in Rome. Philippians has 4 chapters, 104 verses, and the theme is joy. Paul mentions joy or rejoicing about 19 times, and Jesus 61 times, reminding us that Jesus and joy are together. And that God is a joyful God and heaven is a joyful place.

### - **FIVE ways to increase your joy:**

**v.1 – 14**; Paul answers the two most important questions in v.1 – 2:

**Who is God?** in Philippians God is revealed as Jesus Christ 61 times in 104 verses.

**Who am I?** According to God through Paul, a believer is both a servant and saint.

#### 1. **There is joy in being a servant**

A servant is focused on meeting the needs of others, they are not self-focused. We serve a God who served us, Jesus is a servant. **Isaiah 40 – 66** reveals the Messiah as a suffering servant. In **Matt.20:25 – 28**; Jesus taught His disciples to serve others.

#### 2. **There is joy in being a saint**

Most people, would say that God sees them as a "sinner." God sees you as a "saint." As a saint, we are declared holy and righteous in the sight of God because of Jesus Christ. Sin may describe some of your activity but does not define your entire identity in Christ. You will sin some of the time, but you are a saint all the time in Christ. Sin is some of what you do, but not the totality of who you are in Christ

#### 3. **There is joy in having faithful friends**

A friend who loves the Lord and is for us when life is against us is a great joy. Paul mentions his faithful friends in v.3; "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you."

#### 4. **There is joy in prayer**

The shortest distance between two people is prayer. Paul says in v.4; that he prays for all of them with joy. Prayer, is one of the ways that we bring joy to people. Joy grows as we focus on God and others.

#### 5. **There is joy when we partner together in the Gospel**

This is when believers are united to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ together.