

INVINCIBLE JOY

Group Guide:
Week 1

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- How would you define joy? Do you think your definition is similar or different from how the Bible describes it?
- What is your favorite thing about New England?
- Discipleship Check-in. Bottom of guide.

INTRODUCTION

As we start our study of Philippians we will encounter what seems to be a paradox. The apostle Paul is in prison and yet experiencing deep joy. How can this be? As we listen and discuss, let's keep this at the back of our minds. As we focus on Christ and his Word it will transform us so we can experience this joy for ourselves. In this passage Paul will show us the joy, the practice, and the power of gospel partnership. Before we start let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand what Paul is saying and how we can experience it for ourselves.

THE JOY

READ: Philippians 1:1-11

DISCUSS: The Philippians have partnered with Paul to see the gospel spread to the ends of the earth. This partnership has led to exceeding amounts of joy for Paul. Why do you think he is so joyful? Have you experienced this type of joy?

THE PRACTICE

READ: Philippians 1:12-15

DISCUSS: Despite great suffering Paul has continued to preach the gospel and it has led to others receiving Jesus. The news of his fruitful ministry has encouraged others to share the gospel as well. Who in your life has encouraged your faith and increased your desire to share the gospel? Do you think you could do the same for someone else?

THE POWER

READ: Philippians 1:16-26

DISCUSS: This is what keeps Paul going. In life he gets to encourage believers to share the gospel more and see more people come to know Jesus. In death he gets to finally meet his Savior face to face. How could this view of life and death change how you live? What is one thing you can do this week to make this view a reality?

PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

Praise Jesus that his death and resurrection gives us deep joy. Praise him that in life and in death he is enough for us. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with the same joy that Pauls has so that it might lead to others hearing the gospel.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?