



## WEEK 2

April 29 - 30

### Philippians – A Purposeful Life

*This Discussion Guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements. If you are using the guide in your small group, try to work through the questions on your own before you meet. You might not get to all of the questions, and that's okay. If your small group does not meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series.*

**MAIN TEXT:** Philippians 1:19-30

**SUMMARY:** Having purpose makes life easier. It makes a lot of things easier. It can actually bring JOY in the strangest of circumstances. In these verses, Paul tells us about his purpose. What's yours?

#### GETTING STARTED

God wants you to have the joy of a purposeful life.

#### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Joy comes from a purposeful attitude (vv. 19-20)
  - a) Let's remember where Paul was when he wrote these words – he was in PRISON. Is there some place you would rather be than prison? What circumstances surround you?
  - b) In verses 19 and 20, what words indicate Paul's attitude?
    - a. Will turn out
    - b. Eager expectation and hope
    - c. Full courage
    - d. Christ will be honored
  - c) What is Paul's "agenda"? He is a preacher, working as a tentmaker, must have had family (at least a mother and father), friends. All the pressures and stress that we have. But what was his primary focus? How would that bring him joy?
2. Joy comes from a purposeful identity (vv.21-26)
  - a) "To live is Christ" - in the logic of the gospel, what are the alternatives to Christ? In your life, is there an alternative?
  - b) Paul's identity was completely immersed in Christ Jesus. All he was before – gone. All he could be in the future – gone. How is your identity?
  - c) Why would your identity in Christ bring joy?

*"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*

2 Timothy 2:2

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

“Dying to self” can be a hard concept to teach a child. You might try discussing “what you want” and “what others want” and setting aside time where roles are reversed. This can be easy with siblings. Engage your child in a little role playing to happily agree to give up what they want and go with what others in the family want.

Emphasize the joy in seeing someone else happy.

Then let us know how that works out!

3. Joy comes from a purposeful life style (vv. 26-30).
  - a) What does it look like to live life in a manner worthy of the gospel?
    - a. Dying to self?
    - b. Being raised with Christ?
    - c. Walking in newness of life?
    - d. Living grace-filled lives, showing patience and mercy and gentleness to others?
    - e. How do you match up? Are you walking worthy of the gospel that offers eternal life?
  - b) In v.27, Paul stresses the believers need to be “in one spirit,” “with one mind,” “striving side by side.” Why would Paul stress this being “one” and “side by side”?
  - c) Living in a manner worthy of the gospel – easy or hard?
    - a. Could you use some help?
    - b. Where does that help come from?
    - c. What help comes from living “side by side” with fellow Christians?
  - d) What is Paul’s purposeful secret to joy? Read verse 21. Can you claim this secret?

## NEXT STEPS

- Take note of ALL your circumstances. What is drawing most of your attention and focus? How is that working for you? Finding much joy?
- What joy would you find in giving all your circumstances to Christ? What is stopping you? Give them. He’s waiting.
- A purposeful life means it is intentional. Determine to spend this week walking intentionally in a manner worthy of the tremendous privilege of the gospel.

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