

LESSON 3

Philippians 1:12-18

Relentless
JOY

Don't Worry,
Be Happy

OPEN IT

1. What is your favorite movie? What about it do you love so much?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Philippians 1:12-18

2. Why did Paul find his imprisonment encouraging?
3. What influence had Paul's imprisonment had on other Christians around him?
4. What two motivations does Paul give for people to preach the gospel?
5. What two motivations does Paul give for people to preach the gospel?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE

Read Philippians 1: 12-13, 18


As Paul writes Philippians, he finds himself in a pretty tough situation. He is under house arrest in Rome for his teaching and defense of the gospel. It could have been easy for Paul to be upset about his imprisonment, especially because it wasn't "fair," but instead, Paul found encouragement in it because it had provided an opportunity for the gospel to be shared with others in the Roman ranks. Even though this bad thing is happening to Paul, he encourages the Philippians that God is actually using this tough time for God's good.

Most of the time we are quick to rush out of the difficult times we face in life, which makes sense because it's hard. But instead of only looking for a way out of the situation, what if we took time to seek God and His purposes for these trials in our lives. Look for ways that God may be using your trial for others to hear about Christ, or to encourage other Christians in their faith, or for you to be a witness to God's faithfulness. How is God using your trials for His good?

6. Have you ever had any difficult experiences that turned out to be good in the end? What good did you see God bring from it? If you don't, have you seen God work through other people's difficult experiences?

7. What attitudes and perspectives do we have to have in order to view our most difficult times as opportunities for the gospel and for God's glory?

I HAVE A QUESTION!  Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE  Here are some things you could pray for today:

Ask Jesus to help you see how the difficult situations you may be facing in life can be used for His glory and how you might be able to share the love of Jesus in the midst of them

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: HOW DO YOU LIKE ME NOW?

Read Philippians 1:5-17

People can do the right thing for the right reasons, and people can do the right thing for the wrong reasons. Paul tells the Philippians that there are two reasons some people are preaching the gospel about Jesus: either out of selfishness or out of love.


Sometimes people will do good things for the wrong reasons. I bet even you've done it! Maybe you helped set up tables and chairs at church one time because you wanted other people to think you were a really great person or you wanted the girls to think you were strong. (We all know it happens, guys). Maybe you invited that one person to your party to save face with other people. Maybe you shared something super "Christian" in a small group discussion one time so that you looked more spiritual than the other people around you. Whatever it may be, more than likely we've all done it, and people continue to do it all the time.

In Paul's case, there were people who were using his imprisonment for their own gain or selfish ambition, as if in some ways to say, "Hey Paul, look at us! We are out here preaching about Jesus FREELY while you're in prison. HAHHAHA!" Who knows? But at the end of the day, Paul still rejoiced because even though some people were telling others about Jesus for the wrong reasons, they were still telling people about Jesus and that's all that mattered—that people would hear about Jesus Christ and the good news that He came to save us from our sins!

10. What does it mean to serve Christ out of love? How can you serve Jesus out of selfish ambition?

11. When is the last time you told someone about Jesus? What would motivate you to share Jesus with someone?

12. How would you explain the gospel to someone?

I HAVE A QUESTION!  Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

Praise God for the different ways you see the gospel being shared through our church today!