

LESSON 2 // CHECK YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Big Idea: Your perspective determines what you see in life, how you interpret what happens to you and how you respond. This is critical to our spiritual, mental and emotional health, and can increase or limit our happiness and joy.

It's important to understand that when it comes to perspective: we see what we're looking for; God's vision is superior to our vision; joy comes when God's vision becomes our vision; and the attitudes and actions of others will try to warp our perspective and steal our joy.

Philippians 1:12 (NIV) Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

Philippians 1:13-14 (NLT) N For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear.

Romans 5:3-4 (NLT) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Philippians 1:17-18 (NLT) Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. ¹⁸ But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.

Start Talking:

Would you say you have more of a positive perspective on life or a negative perspective? What aspect of your life significantly impact your perspective?

Start Thinking:

Read Philippians 1:12. What does this verse tell you about Paul's perspective? Why is it so important to base your perspective on the truth, as Paul did here?

Read Philippians 1:13-14. How can your perspective and response to your circumstances impact others around you?

Read Romans 5:3-4. What do you learn from these verses about God's purpose for you in trials? How should this affect your perspective and attitudes?

Read Philippians 1:17-18. How should you respond to people who try to warp your perspective and steal your joy?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for your perspective to line up more and more with God's perspective for you. Pray for the wisdom, grace and boldness in Christ to respond with godly attitudes and actions in every trial based on the truth of God's perspective revealed in His Word.