

## DISCUSSION GUIDE || AUGUST 27, 2025

### REMEMBER

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- Paul and Timothy planted a church in the Roman colony of Philippi (you can read about it in Acts 16). They found **a group of spiritual seekers** praying outside of the city who became the first European converts and Gentile church.
- Paul has at least 2 big problems: 1) **he's stuck in prison** when he wants to be moving on mission and 2) **other Christians are gossiping as they're gospeling**, discrediting Paul and building their own platform while he's sidelined.
- As Paul is dealing with these problems, we see how **pressure** does at least 2 things, it: 1) **reveals character** and 2) **invites perspective**.
- Surely the only way that Paul was able to keep his cool was because **the gospel** was big enough to break him of any self-preoccupation. **The gospel is the banner** under which all of our problems, politics, priorities, perspectives, and pride gets surrendered.

### READ

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- Read **Philippians 1.12-18a**

### REFLECT

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1. What **word or phrase** from this passage grabs your attention the most and why?  
*What's most **surprising**?*
2. Paul's plans didn't go as he expected. Paul had outsiders misunderstanding him and spreading different narratives. *What connections can you make to **your life** and **our world** today?*  
*In other words, **how have you seen or experienced** these kind of problems?*
3. How have **pressure and problems affected** your view, experience, or ideas of God and faith?  
*Has your thinking or dealing with them **changed** over time?*  
*What **prompted** that change?*
4. What does it look like to let the gospel be "the banner under which all things are surrendered"?  
*In other words, **what does Christian living actually look** like when the gospel is central?*  
***How** do we do that in our lives and churches/communities?*
5. Paul essentially lands on this perspective: "I can still preach the gospel in this place I didn't expect to be and even though those preachers have mixed motives, at least more people are hearing the gospel." ***What's something in your life you're trying to see from a gospel perspective?***
6. ***What can we pause and pray for** in our lives and community right now?*

ANNOUNCEMENT // **Celebrate Angel Pinkerton's Baptism this Saturday, Aug. 30!**