

Discussion Guide: September 14, 2025

Series: **Philippians**

Message: **Philippians 1:12-26**

Bryan Bicket

Take Home Truth: Living boldly for Jesus and the spread of the Gospel is the secret to a joy-filled life.

Focus Passage

Philippians 1:12-26 (NLT): *And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear.*

It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. 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. 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. For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.

For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

Main Points: When you live boldly for Jesus and the spread of the Gospel you experience

- The joy of giving people the chance to hear and respond to the Gospel.
- The joy of seeing believers emboldened to share the Gospel.
- The joy of God's sustaining you even in the face of opposition to proclaiming and defending the Gospel.
- the joy of both life and death being a "win."

Discussion Questions

1. Bryan began his message with two questions: "What if what happens **TO** you is not **ABOUT** you?" and, if that's true, "What would it take for you to live boldly for Jesus and the spread of the Gospel, instead of for yourself?" Talk about these two questions as a group.

2. Deep down everyone wants to live a satisfying and joy-filled life. Share about a time you experienced joy even when you faced difficult circumstances.

3. Boldly living for Jesus and the spread of the Gospel is not easy, but it is joy-filled. Spend time talking about each of the Main Points listed above. Have you personally experienced one or more of these joys? Or have you seen the difference a specific joy has made in someone's life?
4. What are some barriers you face to boldly sharing the gospel with others? What do you need to overcome those barriers?
5. How are you letting other people's opposition of you or the proclamation of the Gospel keep you from experiencing joy as you boldly live for Jesus?
6. What support do you need, or can you give to others who are needing encouragement to live boldly for Jesus and the spread of the Gospel?
7. What's your main takeaway from today's discussion? What will you do to put it into practice this week?

Additional Resources:

Bible Project - Philippians Overview: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/philippians/>

God's Got My Back - Song by Forrest Frank:
https://youtu.be/BqDLebwD_qI?si=uAtGWhUAOfJTOez