

# THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Sunday, July 24, 2022 The Book of Philippians

### Message Summary:

This week in our new series, The Book of Philippians, Pastor John Carter gave us an introductory survey of the background to the Book of Philippians. Acts 16 tells us that Philippi was a Roman colony in the region of Macedonia, known for retired military and patriotic nationalism. Paul received resistance from the Roman community as he began to preach that Jesus was the one true king. He was imprisoned and miraculously released there. Years later, Paul sent this letter while he was imprisoned in Rome. The church of Philippi had sent a financial gift with Epaphroditus to Paul in prison to support him. Paul sent this letter back to the church with Epaphroditus.

This letter is different from Paul's other letters, as it more a collection of short essays or vignettes about specific topics about which Paul wanted to encourage the church in Philippi. All of these topics/essays revolve around 2:6-11, often known as the Messiah Poem. Each of the other sections of the letter are designed to support the foundational belief that the life of Jesus is meant to be expressed through the lived experience of our own lives. The supporting sections of this book are outlined as such:

- 1:1-11 – Opening Prayer
- 1:12-26 – Description of Paul's Imprisonment (Execution or Release)
- 1:27-2:18 – Following Jesus' Example (Being Light Bearers)
- 2:6-11 – The Messiah Poem (Condensed Version of Gospel Story)
- 2:19-30 – The Two Examples (Timothy and Epaphroditus)
- 3:1-4:1 – Paul's Own Example (Paul's Past vs. Christ's Work in Paul's Life)
- 4:2-9 – Challenge to Live the Example (Addresses Inner Conflict and Fear)
- 4:10-23 – Closing Thanks (Dependence on Christ)

Philippians gives us a unique window into Paul's own heart and mind. He saw his entire life as a reenactment of the story of Jesus. It is his awareness of Jesus' love and presence that gave him hope and humility while in prison, and accepting of whatever the outcome of his imprisonment would be. We have much to learn from the writings of Paul in this book!

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Paul write this letter to the Philippians?
2. What are the major themes in the book of Philippians?
3. What do you hope to take away with you from the book?

### Life Application:

This week, we challenge you to read through the entire book of Philippians. As one of Paul's shorter letters, it is only 4 chapters long! You could read it through twice easily! Pay attention to the author, the audience, the themes, and the things that minister to you personally. Take time to familiarize yourself with the content of this book we are going to be spending time with together as a church over the next season.