

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## **Bridge Builder**

*John 16:30-33 NIV; Philippians 1:21-24 NIV*

1. Was there any one thing you most agreed with or disagreed with from last weekend's message? What was it and why?

2. Share of a time in your life when you were able to overcome a hardship or difficulty because you had experienced it before or were able to not worry about the situation because you knew how to handle it because of training, a past experience, or teaching.

3. The Apostle Paul during all his trials, hardships, and difficulties he was still able to do the work that Jesus had called him to do. He gives us some insight on how he can stay "assured" and "unshakeable" even during his difficulties in his writings in Philippians 1:21-24. For Paul's focus was not on this life but on the next, while still understanding the importance of doing what he was called to do while on earth. In these examples below, share how "having our mindsets not on this life but on the next one" can allow us to be a bridge builder.

a. A loss of income and not being able to provide for your family like you used to.

b. Our child walking away from faith or expressing a concern of not believing in God.

c. An addiction or a loved one dealing with an addiction.

4. **Digging Deeper:** This Sunday, Pastor Terry discussed the passage of scripture in John 16:30-33, where Jesus reminds the disciples that they will continue to experience difficulties but to “take heart”, to have peace, to be assured, to not be shaken because “I have overcome the world.” How is it that we can have peace or to “take heart” as we continue to experience hardships and difficulties in this world even though Jesus has overcome it?

a. How can we best serve others as bridge builders while we are going through hardships of our own?

b. Share with the group of how you may have overcome hardships in your own life and how it allowed for you to share your faith with others.

c. What would be some healthy practices or spiritual habits that allows for you to learn how to have peace and to share your faith even as you continue to experience difficulties.

d. Is there anything you need to do as a result of what you’ve learned this week?

**Closing in prayer:** Close in a time of prayer this week. Please be lifting all of our prayer concerns and requests from this past week. Bill Runkel, Debbie Pearson, and many unspoken.