



## **Discussion Guide**

**March 8**

### **Philippians 1:12-26**

<sup>12</sup>Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup>As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

<sup>15</sup>It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup>The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup>The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup>But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

<sup>19</sup>Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup>I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. <sup>23</sup>Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup>but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

### **Read Philippians 1:12–14**

1. How does Paul reinterpret his imprisonment in these verses? What are the implications for us?
2. What evidence does Paul give that God is using his circumstances for good?
3. How have Paul's chains affected other believers?
4. What might this passage teach us about the relationship between hardship and gospel impact?

### **Read Philippians 1:15–18**

5. Why do you think Paul is able to rejoice even when some people preach Christ with wrong motives?
6. What does Paul's response reveal about what he values most?
7. How might this challenge our tendency to focus on methods, personalities, or recognition?

### **Read Philippians 1:19–26**

8. What hopes and expectations shape Paul's outlook on the future?
9. What do you think Paul means by saying, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"? In what ways is that statement particularly relevant for you?
10. How does Paul's dilemma between staying and departing reveal his love for the Philippian believers?
11. What might it look like to live with this same Christ-centered perspective today?