



---

Title: GROWING JOY IN COMMUNITY

Main Scripture: Philippians 1:2-4

Following Paul's example, we should ...

Speak words of blessing and grace to one another (v 2).

Thank God for one another (v 3).

(1 Thes 5:16-18)

Pray for one another ... with JOY (v 4).

## GROWING JOY IN COMMUNITY

1. How much do I speak words of blessing and grace to others?
2. How truly thankful to God am I for others in my life?
3. How joyful am I when I pray for others?

# Finding Joy in Community | Sept. 30/Oct. 1, 2023

Small Group Sermon Study | Philippians 1:2-4

**Prayer:** *Father God, we thank You that You are God and You are good. Please lead this time by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.*

**Icebreaker:** Share about the most fun you have ever had with a group of people. For example - it could be a road trip you took with your family or friends when you were younger. Take a moment to think back and then share with the rest of the group.

**Read the key passage(s) of Scripture from the message and review the sermon notes, then answer the following questions:**

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Pastor Greg shares a story about trying to convince yourself that you don't want to be with other people. Share about a time that this has happened to you.
3. Pastor Greg points out that Satan wants to convince us that we are better off on our own and that we don't need anyone else. Discuss what these thoughts and ideas sound like to you.
4. We must counteract the lies of Satan with the truth of God. We hear in the message that "we were created to live our best life, in relationship, in community with others". What could it look like for you to acknowledge the lies and attacks of the enemy against you and your group? What could it look like for you to counteract the lies and attacks with God's truth? How can you help each other with this?
5. Why is it so significant that Paul used the phrase "grace and peace to you" to start this letter to the Philippian church?
6. Pastor Greg talks about our active participation in creating joy in the relationships that we have, especially in our small groups:
  - a. To speak words of blessing and grace to one another.
  - b. To thank God for one another.
  - c. To pray for one another with joy.
7. Look at the list above and discuss how you could grow in one or all these areas personally and as a small group.

## Personal Reflection and Prayer

Take a moment to consider the lies that you may be believing about being in community. Ask Jesus to help you see the lies, renounce the lies, and then choose His truth.

Take a moment to pray about how you could grow in creating joy in the relationships and groups that you are part of. Ask Jesus to show you how you could speak words of blessing to others, be more thankful for others and grow in praying for other people.

**Prayer:** *Close in prayer together, praying for yourself and for one another, asking God to strengthen you to love Him and each other more deeply. Ask the Lord to empower your actions as you leave today.*