

Philippians

YA Life Group Study Guide

Week 4

Background Info

Paul either founded the Christian community in Philippi, or at the very least, spent time with the new community to help establish them. While there, Paul was beaten and spent time in the local jail after healing a demon-possessed girl. That evening, he and his companion were freed during an earthquake (Acts 16: 16-40). After his release, the Jailer was baptized. Paul briefly visited a second time several years later. As he writes this letter from Roman prison, I imagine Paul is something of a mythic, father figure to many of the readers.

Intro Discussion

Who has been a major influence in your faith? Why are they special to you?

How do encouraging words from that person effect you differently that those from others?

Text -- Phil 2: 12- 24

As Paul encourages them to remain faithful (vs 12-13), what is the work God is doing in them?
Increasing their desire – providing them with power

What are the results of living without complaining and arguing? (vs15)
Free of critique – live as children of God – shining example to others

What is the source of Paul's joy? (vs. 16-17)

What is at risk for Paul?

What does Paul hope Timothy can accomplish? (vs. 19-20)
Check after their wellbeing -- Report back to Paul to bring him cheer.

What sets Timothy apart from other companions?

Application

Where do you look for encouragement? Are you looking for Godly encouragement, or worldly?

How can you be an encouragement to others?

Why is it sometimes difficult to not complain or argue? How can we overcome that challenge?