

Philippians: Joy in Christ (Week 1)

1) Joy in Christ through Family (1:1–11)

Main Idea: As Christians, we are all members of the same family, with God as our Father. As such, fellowship and love should continue to abound among us, as we grow closer to Jesus.

Introduction:

1. How is the church like a family? *God is our Father and Christians are like brothers and sisters.*

Discussion:

2. How do loving family members treat one another? *Possible answers: love, kindness, etc.*
3. What are some ways that family members sin against one another? *Possible answers: harsh behavior, selfishness, anger, etc.*
4. Is there any Christian who has loved you like a brother or sister?
5. Is there any Christian whom you have loved like a brother or sister?
6. What does it mean for us, as a family, to be partners in the Gospel? *God has placed us together as a team to work together in telling the whole world about Jesus.*
7. Who are your partners in the Gospel? *Possible answers: Sunday School teachers, church leaders, other church members, etc.*
8. What does Paul yearn to see in the lives of the believers? *Paul's desire is that the love of Christians would become so mature that they would realize what is of utmost importance, sincere and blameless conduct toward each another.*
9. In whose life can you rejoice in the work of Jesus? Send them a note this week.

Reflection and Prayer (Take time to pray for the following as a family):

- The ability to bless others when you are in difficult circumstances
- The ability to love one another in Christ
- For a clear vision of what it means to be a partner in the gospel
- That God would bless your partners in the gospel
- For God to make a difference in the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ