

Philippians: Joy in Christ (Week 2)

2) Joy in Christ through Trials (1:12–18)

Main Idea: Our joy is to be found in Jesus, regardless of circumstances. In fact, adversity can actually help advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Introduction:

1. Why is rejoicing in God sometimes harder when life is tough? *We may think that God has forgotten about us or does not care. Help your children to understand that God is always with us, always loves us, and always has our best interest at heart.*

Discussion:

2. What do you think Paul is thinking about as he enters his imprisonment? *Paul's focus was on seeing the Gospel preached. He wanted everyone to hear about Jesus.*
3. What is the Gospel? *Jesus is God who lived without sin, died on a cross for our sins, was buried, and resurrected three days later.*
4. Parents, how has the Gospel affected your life? *Tell how you became a Christian and how God has grown you to be more like Jesus. Ask your children if they have any questions about anything you share in your testimony.*
5. Are you currently facing any trials? How can the Gospel help you face those trials? *The Gospel shows us that nothing on Earth can compare with what we have waiting for us in Heaven. No matter what trial we are facing, we can have joy because we have Jesus.*
6. What type of message does your typical reaction to adversity send to those around you? *Positive or negative, providing examples*
7. Whose reaction to difficulty has encouraged you in your faith? How has that given you boldness to tell people about Jesus?
8. Would seeing the Gospel advance be enough to bring you joy?

Reflection and Prayer

Take time this week to pray for the following:

- Wisdom to respond to adversity in a godly way
- Thankfulness for those that have encouraged you by their joy during trials
- The eyes to see our own false motives in sharing the Gospel
- The ability to see the Gospel as more important than our comfort