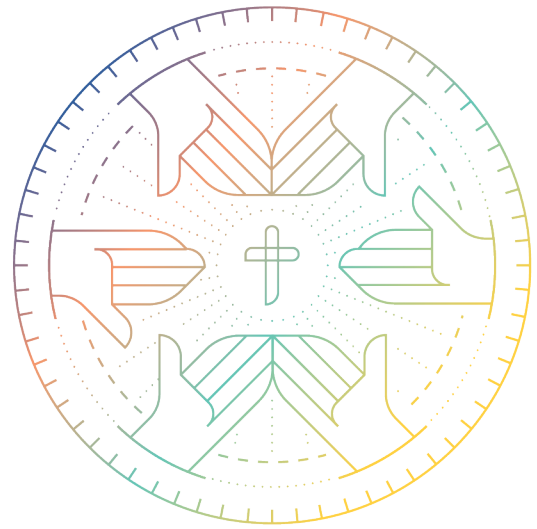


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

_____ like Jesus: “The Gospel is Still Advancing”
Scripture Focus: Philippians 1:12-20

ICEBREAKER

What's a time something didn't go according to your plan but ended up working out better than expected?

Do you find it easier to trust God with someone else's setback, or your own? Why?

INTRODUCTION

Paul wrote Philippians from prison, a circumstance that might have appeared to hinder the gospel. Instead, God used it to strengthen believers and further advance His Kingdom. To this day the gospel continues to spread—often in the face of challenges, frustrations, and uncertainties. What the world may see as obstacles, God can use for His purposes. And by choosing His perspective, we are able to look beyond our own circumstances and see that He is at work!

INTO THE WORD

Read Philippians 1:12–13, John 16:33, Romans 8:28, and Genesis 50:20. What is the difference between believing God causes every hardship and believing God can redeem every hardship? How do setbacks expose what we truly believe about God's character, wisdom, and control?

Read Philippians 1:14, Acts 1:8, Acts 4:13, and Proverbs 28:1. Share a time where you saw someone be courageous in their faith. What does bold faith look like? What's the difference between boldness and brashness?

Read Philippians 1:15-18, 1 Corinthians 3:5-7, and 2 Corinthians 10:12. How can pride, comparison, or personal agendas distract us from God's mission? What does it look like for Christ's reputation to matter more than our own?

Read Philippians 1:19–20, Matthew 6:33-34, and Matthew 5:14-16. How can losing sight of God's purpose for our lives increase anxiety and fear? How would your worries change if your greatest concern was not what happens to you, but how Christ is seen through you?

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

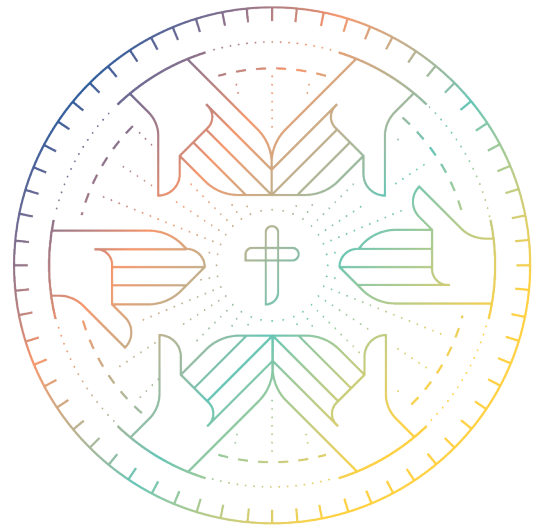
The gospel is still advancing. God is not limited by difficult circumstances, frustrating people, or uncertain futures. Just as He worked through Paul's imprisonment, He continues to work today through situations we would never choose. The question is not whether God is at work, but whether we will trust Him enough to see life through the lens of His greater purpose.

Reflection Questions:

- What are the worries or fears that most often compete for your trust in God?
- What changes when our primary goal becomes glorifying God rather than avoiding hardship?

Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



TAKE YOUR NEXT RIGHT STEP

(Prayerfully consider one of the following next steps)

- **Worship God:** When navigating difficult situations, ask God, “What might You be doing through this?” and then listen for His answer. Whether or not He provides clarity around the purpose, choose to trust Him through the circumstance.
- **Make God Known:** Take a bold step—offer to pray for someone going through a hardship and share why you still have hope in Jesus despite challenges you have faced.
- **Seek God Daily:** Choose an encouraging Scripture that gives you hope. Write it down and place it somewhere you will see it daily (mirror, kitchen table, vehicle dashboard, etc.). Each time you see it, take a moment to read it and say it as a prayer, declaring you choose to trust in God and not your situation.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, You are bigger than our circumstances, failures, challenges, and fears. Help us to trust in Your plans even when we can't see what You're doing, and to answer the call to make You known. Thank You that You can use any situation for good and that nothing will stop the gospel from advancing. In Jesus' name, Amen!