

## “JOYFUL IN PRAYER” PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

*Because we are set apart to serve together,  
we can be joyful in partnering with one another and praying for one another.*

After planting the church in Philippi during his second missionary journey (Acts 16:11-40), Paul now writes to them ten years later from Roman imprisonment. Amazingly, he is not discouraged but joyful! In fact, the word “joy” appears fourteen times in these four short chapters. For Paul, joy is not about our circumstances but about the progress of the gospel in our hearts and lives despite our circumstances. In this passage, Paul shows us the joy of being servants and saints (vv. 1-2), the joy of partnering together for the gospel (vv. 3-8), and the joy of praying for another by the gospel (vv. 9-11).

### **APPLYING THE WORD**

*Read Philippians 1:1-11 aloud and pray that the Lord will apply this passage to your group.*  
Introductory Question: What’s one of the most encouraging letters you’ve ever received? Why?

#### **The Joy of Being Servants and Saints (vv. 1-2)**

- As a disciple, do you struggle more to see yourself as a servant or saint (v. 1)? Why?
- Other than God, where are you tempted to look for peace in this season (v. 2)?

#### **The Joy of Partnering Together for the Gospel (vv. 3-8)**

- What’s the difference between being a “partner in the gospel” and a spiritual consumer (v. 5)?
- In this season, how does it comfort you to know God will finish what He started in you (v. 6)?

#### **The Joy of Praying for One Another by the Gospel (vv. 9-11)**

- Why is it necessary for both love and discernment to go together for gospel growth (vv. 9)?
- Imagine, what would happen if you prayed Philippians 1:9-11 for one another this semester?

### **PRAYING THE WORD**

Philippians 1:1-11 prompts us to pray for one another with joy and thankfulness. As you pray this passage together consider asking someone to pray that we would live joyfully as servants and saints (vv. 1-2). Ask someone else to pray thanking God for our church, community group, and life group (vv. 3-8). Finally, ask someone else to pray that we would grow in our love for one another with all discernment this semester (vv. 9-11).

### **STAYING IN THE STORY**

<b>Day 1</b>	Planting the church in Philippi (vv. 1-2; Acts 16:11-30)
<b>Day 2</b>	Called to be set apart to serve (vv. 1-2; Exodus 19:1-6)
<b>Day 3</b>	The joy of knowing our great God (v. 3-4; Psalm 16:1-11)
<b>Day 4</b>	The comfort of our faithful God (v. 6; Deuteronomy 7:6-11)
<b>Day 5</b>	Praying for gospel growth (vv. 9-11; Colossians 1:9-14)