



April 22, 2018

Philippians 1:12-26

Icebreaker: What in the Christian faith really excites you? What gets your heart pumping and brings you joy?

Last week, we saw the Philippian partnership, affection and prayer that brought Paul joy. This week, we'll see how Paul's purpose kept him focused and joy-filled.

Read Philippians 1:12-18.

[Q] According to these verses, why was Paul rejoicing?

[Q] What is the most important purpose Paul had in life?

[Q] What does a person's *purpose* have to do with the joy he or she experiences in life?

[Q] Why wasn't Paul angry about being in prison? What about those who were preaching as a means of selfish gain while he was in chains?

Good things were happening and Paul could see it. Why? Because his focus wasn't on himself and he didn't wait until his circumstances were better to live in joy. His purpose and joy didn't depend on his circumstances, only on God's purpose and plan.

[Q] According to Genesis 50:20 and Acts 4:27-28, who else saw purpose in bad circumstances?

[Q] Has there been a difficult circumstance in your life that God used for His glory? Please explain.

[Q] What is a difficult circumstance you're currently facing you could rejoice in if Christ were somehow proclaimed in it?

Read Philippians 1:19-26.

[Q] In verse 19, Paul says he was helped by two things. What were they?

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21 (ESV)

[Q] What do you think verse 21 means? Take a shot at explaining it.

[Q] Can you say that Philippians 1:21 is true for you? Why or why not?

[Q] How would someone observing *your* life complete this sentence? For you to live is _____.

[Q] What is the conflict Paul is having in verses 22-26? What are his concerns? What are his conclusions?

Pray

LOVE CT - Saturday, May 5 | 9 am to 1 pm

Show love and compassion by serving a town, civic, or non-profit organization in the Hartford region. Choose from a variety of projects. Bring a friend or neighbor. Sign up solo or as a group at valleycommunity.cc/lovect. Registration ends May 1.