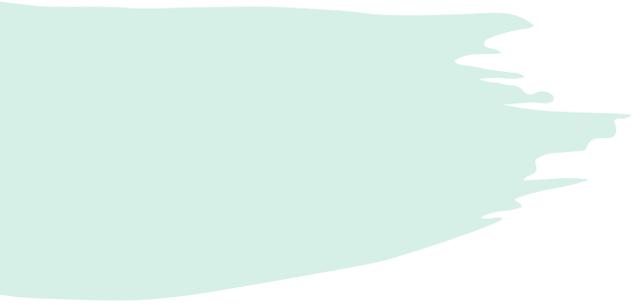


*St. Joseph's Episcopal
Church Presents:*

DISCIPLESHIP EXPLORED:
WHAT'S THE IS THE BEST LOVE
YOU'VE EVER KNOWN?



*Opening Prayer
&
Welcome*

A large, light teal brushstroke graphic that starts at the top right and tapers down towards the bottom right, framing the title text.

Session 2: Living In Christ

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

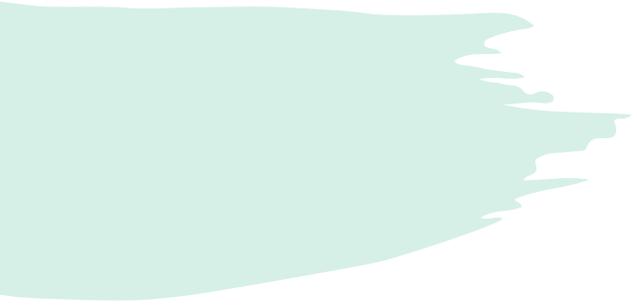


*Opening
Discussion
Question*

What have been the joyful moments in your life?

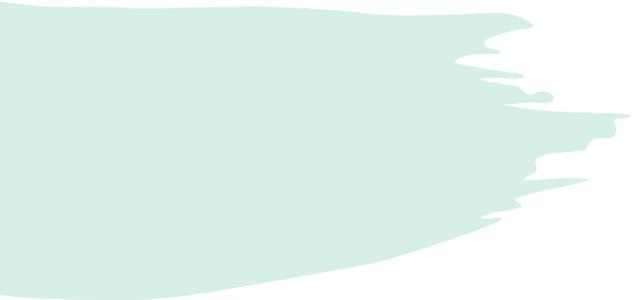
Session 2
Video





Video Reflection

How was Paul able to be so joyful?



- While writing to the Philippians, Paul is under house arrest in Rome, people are trying to stir up trouble for him, and he doesn't know if he will live or die.
- And yet Paul can rejoice, because he knows that everything that's happening is actually advancing the gospel (Philippians 1:12). God is in control.

Video Reflection

For Paul, life is about knowing Jesus better and telling others about him.

- Because of that, even death is “gain” for Paul, because then he will “be with Christ, which is better by far” (Philippians 1:23).
- If your greatest joy in life is Jesus Christ, then nothing – not even death – can take your joy away from you.

A light green brushstroke background with a textured, painterly appearance. The stroke is horizontal and slightly curved, with irregular, feathered edges. The color is a soft, muted green.

Philippians 1:12-26

Philippians 1:12-26

I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear. Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will result in my deliverance. It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Discussion

1. Paul is torn between two extremes. What are they? (See verses 23-24.)
2. Why is it so hard for him to choose between the two? (See verses 22-26.)
3. Paul's life is full of hardship, but he is full of joy (verse 18). How is that possible?
4. Can you imagine how it would feel to be that joyful? If you don't feel that kind of joy, what do you think may be keeping you from rejoicing the way Paul does?
5. If your friends were to finish this sentence for you, what do you think they'd say about you: "For **(your name)**, to live is _____"?
6. Given what we've learned about the source of Paul's unshakable joy, are there any changes you might make in your Christian life this week?

A teal-colored background on the left side of the slide, with a white, irregular brushstroke-like shape extending from the teal area towards the center.

Wrap Question

What has been most striking for you during this session?

Upcoming Sessions

Session 3: One in Christ	July 27, 2020
Session 4: Obedient in Christ	August 3, 2020
Session 5: Righteous in Christ	August 10, 2020
Session 6: Transformed in Christ	August 17, 2020
Session 7: Rejoicing in Christ	August 24, 2020
Session 8: Content in Christ	August 31, 2020