



LIFEgroup Discussion Questions
Sacred Joy: A study of Philippians
October 18, 2009
Philippians 1.18-26

1. Why is Paul rejoicing (1.18)?
2. What makes it difficult for us to keep strong in our faith in Christ?
3. What is Paul being delivered from (1.19)? What do you need to be delivered from?
4. What is Paul dependent on (1.19)? Are you dependent on the prayers of others and the Holy Spirit?
5. Discuss 1.21. What does Paul mean? How do you look at life and death? Is Christ truly your gain or is something else?
6. We often see God doing a great amount of work in a believer's life when there is a tragedy, suffering or when something bad happens. Does your view of God change in the midst of a hardship? If so, what are some steps you can take the next time something negative happens to see God in a different light?
7. Paul has a strong connection to those in the church at Philippi. Do you share such connections?
8. Discuss this word from Bill Lawrence: *"More always means less. There's always more out there somewhere. More opportunity, more recognition, more power, more control, more success, more money, more everything. But more always means less. You see, to get more of whatever we seek, we always end up with less time. That's what we do in life-we trade our time for whatever we gain. Now everything in life is finite, but nothing is more finite or more final than time. There's more of everything else, but there's never more of time. We kid ourselves into thinking we have more time. We say, "I think I'll put more time into sales or management or golf," but we don't really have more time, we just manage ourselves differently in the time we have. We'll never have more time. In fact we have no idea how much time we do have. We look at the game clock and think, "I have years to go before the game ends," but only the Timekeeper actually knows how much time we have. And He's not telling. So here's the deal. More means less. No matter how much more you get, in the end you always have less time. Now all of us need to go after more because that's the way life works. It's just that you need to make sure the more you're going after is worth the less time you'll have once you get it. . .so what "more" are you going after? At this point in your life what makes the "more" you're seeking worth the less time you will have once you get it? In light of God's purpose for you, what are the wisest ways you can invest your time to give the most glory to Him?"*