

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

**NO
MATTER
WHAT...**

No Matter What ... Rejoice

October 15 & 16, 2022

We're moving through the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians, and in it, we get a strong sense of Paul's commitment to Jesus Christ. As you read this week's text, look for the engine behind Paul's faith—the energy source that empowers him to help others grow in their faith ... no matter what! Spoiler alert ... it's joy!

SCRIPTURE TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 1:18b-26

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

While jailed in Rome for spreading the gospel of Jesus, Paul is informed that the Christians in Philippi are being bullied by unbelievers and their faith is being severely tested. Paul writes this joyful letter to the 1st century church in Philippi and tells them that, no matter what, they should focus on the joy of living in Christ. Paul invites them, and us, into the fellowship of the unashamed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **In the midst of challenge, no matter what, the starting point is always joy.**

Share about a time in your life when moving forward seemed impossible. Were you able to “locate the joy” in that situation? If so, where/what was the joy? How did it provide a starting point for forward momentum? Re-read this week's scripture text. What was Paul's source of joy in the midst of his seemingly impossible situation? Can you relate?

- **In the midst of challenge, no matter what, prayer + the Spirit = deliverance.**

Re-read Philippians 1:19. What specific prayers do you have for Prince of Peace as we move through this time of leadership transition? What specific prayers do you have for yourself in whatever challenges you are currently facing in your own life? What would deliverance look like for you? For Prince of Peace? Take some time to lift up all of these prayers to God through the help of the Spirit.

- **In the midst of challenge, no matter what, we focus on Christ.**

Re-read Philippians 1:21. Have you arrived at a point in your journey with Christ to be able to echo Paul's words? If so, how does this foundational “win/win” promise bring you deep and abiding joy? If not, what do you need to move toward reaching that place in your faith? How can this group, or the wider Prince of Peace community, support you in your journey?

CHALLENGE: Invest yourself in making this coming year a springboard into the future by focusing on Christ.