



The Mission

Date: September 29, 2024

Text: Philippians 4:13

BIG IDEA

The life of a disciple is hard; the calling God has placed on our lives and the task in front of us can seem overwhelming. Brokenness surrounds us at every turn and the work can seem never ending. But God has not asked us to do it alone—we can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us.

Conversation Starter

- Think about the start of your journey with Christ. Whether you began to walk with the Lord as a child or an adult, what did you expect the life of faith to be like? How did those expectations align with reality?
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COMMENTARY #1

(Philippians Overview) Philippi was a Roman colony whose citizens took great pride in the prominence of their city. The population exhibited great loyalty to the culture and customs of Rome as evidenced by their attack upon Paul and Silas. The men



were attacked due to their preaching of the Gospel; yet, despite being beaten and imprisoned, the two men continued to preach the Gospel and minister to the Philippian citizens (Acts 16:12–40). Out of such a harrowing circumstance, the Philippian church was born, and many former pagans accepted the Gospel of Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Consider any difficult situations you might be facing. How might you view your circumstance as an opportunity to glorify God and/or share the Gospel instead of allowing anger, anxiety, or grief to dominate your thoughts and actions?
 2. Throughout his epistle, Paul speaks affectionately to the Philippian church. He encourages them, just as they have encouraged him. How can you encourage and edify others in your faith community as you, together, seek to reach the world with the Gospel?
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COMMENTARY #2

(Philippians' Legacy) Paul departed from Philippi to continue his missionary work, but the citizens who had accepted the Gospel of Christ remained in their city. Paul exhorts them to emulate the example of Christ in order to shine the light of the Gospel amongst people who did not know God (2:1–17; 4:11–13).



Discussion Questions

1. Like the Philippian citizens, we are surrounded by customs and ideals that are contrary to God's kingdom values. Rather than cast judgment, how can we be more attentive and responsive to the spiritual condition of individuals you encounter in your daily life?
2. How does the example of Christ fortify your faith as you seek to obey God's calling to reach your community with the Gospel message? How do you "walk as Christ walked?"
3. Philippians 4:13 is recited so often that we seldom meditate on its true meaning. Paul is not promising that Christ will give us whatever we want or that the Lord will give us success in every endeavor. What does it mean to "do all things through Christ" and be strengthened by Him?

GOING DEEPER

1. Read Phil 2:12–18 and 4:4–13. Examine yourself in the light of these verses. How can you better align your thoughts, words, and actions with the example of Christ? Be specific and choose one area to work on in partnership with the Lord this week.
2. What are some of the current cultural pressures that go against the Word of God? Make a list of these and then



brainstorm ways you can meet these issues with compassion and grace rather than judgment.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For an overview video and additional commentary on Philippians, go to <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-philippians/>.

GROUP ACTIVITY

Just as Paul encouraged the Philippians, you can encourage one another! As a group, take some time to celebrate fellow group members' strengths, ways in which they bless you, and ways in which they bless God's kingdom.