

# JOY in THE FAITH

Philippians 1:12-30

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

– Mark Adams –

### The Big Idea

Perhaps the Coronavirus has taught us about our weaknesses. Personal, national, or in this case, global challenges, have revealed our weakness of depending on “self”. It’s not only the virus and its many complications. It’s racial tensions, political disagreements, growing hatred for biblical values, as well as the many difficulties people already face. Many people are filled with worry. Difficult times make it challenging to find true joy.

Philippians 4:4-14 contains some much-needed practical advice for dealing with worry. As similar as we are to all humans, Christians should differ in their thinking. Rather than depending on an inner strength to make us happy, we rely on God. This portion of Philippians helps us to be more in tune with the source of true peace and joy—Our God in Jesus our King.

### Discussion Questions

1. When you really trust someone, what does it look like? What does Paul's time in prison say about his trust in God? Is there anyone or anything you believe so strongly you'd be willing to go to prison and suffer over it?
2. In Philippians 1:15-18 it's clear that Paul has some opponents who are taking advantage of his situation to make themselves look good and to make Paul look bad. When someone tries to make you look bad do you: (A) Get even; (B) Go home and stew over it; (C) Spend minimal energy worrying about it, trusting that the truth will win out? What does it look like Paul's response is to being mistreated?
3. What are some things in your life over which you do have some control? How can you honor God with your influence in these things?
4. What is a circumstance in your experience where looking at the situation from God's point of view makes it easier to endure?

