

I'VE GOT THE

joy joy joy



WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?

Ice Breakers

- What Is the worst thing you have ever faced?
- What is the best thing that has ever happened to you?
- Share one good choice you have made recently.
- Share one bad choice you have made recently.
- Regardless of your circumstance, does God ever change?
- How can God use the good and the bad for His glory?

READ Philippians 1:12-14

Verse 12—"Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME has actually served to ADVANCE THE GOSPEL."

- What has happened to you? Share a part of your testimony (or write it down).

NOTE: Paul is in prison as he writes this letter. He is saying "Me being in prison is advancing the Gospel."



- How can being in prison help Jesus to be shared?

1. God can use any & all circumstances for His glory.

- How is God using your past & present circumstances for His glory?
- Do you think God has allowed much in your life so you can use it to minister?

NOTE: What has happened to you is unique to you! What has happened to you can help others, but not if you don't share how God has worked in your life!

Verse 13—"As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in CHAINS FOR CHRIST."

2. We are in chains FOR Him.

- Why was Paul in chains?
- Why was he being persecuted?
- Have you ever faced the chains of persecution? Explain.
- What would it look like to be chained to Jesus? How would this affect you? (Picture yourself handcuffed to Jesus).
- Can we be chained to Jesus and chained to sin at the same time? Why or why not?



READ Matthew 6:24

²⁴ No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

- What did Jesus say about two masters?

READ John 8:11

11 ...“And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

- We know Jesus forgave the woman, but why did He say “Go and sin no more”?
- Is it possible for us to not sin?

NOTE: Jesus said, “Go and sin no more.” Would He ask her to do something that was not possible?

READ Philippians 1:14

14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters in the Lord have been ENCOURAGED to SPEAK the Word of God more COURAGEOUSLY and FEARLESSLY.

- Can our chains... “being chained to Jesus and being chained for Jesus”... for an encouragement to others?



3. Our chains can bring ENCOURAGEMENT to OTHERS.

- Share a time your walk with Christ motivated someone else to want Jesus.
- When's the last time you ENCOURAGED someone?

READ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

11 “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

- What should your job be?

Application

- Are you up for a little self-evaluation?!
- Are you really “chained to Jesus”? How do you know?
- Are you growing in Him?
- Are you “chained FOR Jesus”?
- What does that persecution look like for you?

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

Philippians 1:12-14

