

# Sent | Continuing Jesus' Mission in the World

## April 18: This Week Along the Way | Philippi



### More about Philippi

The ancient city of Philippi has the distinction of being the first place that Paul preached on the European continent. Philippi was a Greek/Roman city in Macedonia (Northern Greece) that was known as 'the little Rome' since the citizens were fiercely loyal to Rome, and they modeled their city after the grandeur of Rome. Paul was particularly close to the Philippians, and he was thankful for a gift that they gave him while he was in prison. Though false teachers had not yet infiltrated the church when Paul wrote Philippians, he was concerned about them as well as external persecution and internal divisions that were tearing the church apart.

### Readings for the Week of April 18

*Our readings for this week are located in the Galatian churches before we move along on Friday to the city of Philippi.*

**Monday** | Philippians 1:12-30

**Thursday** | Philippians 4:1-9

**Tuesday** | Philippians 2:1-18

**Friday** | Acts 17:1-15

**Wednesday** | Philippians 3:12-21

## WELCOME (15 minutes)

This week as we think about rejoicing and joy, share about a time that you felt particularly joyful.

Last week we studied about the centrality of racial reconciliation in the gospel message. How has that message made you think or respond this last week?

## WORSHIP (20 minutes)

*This week's worship is focused on Paul's words about rejoicing in Philippians 4. Feel free to speak this liturgy together (everyone joins on the bold parts) and then spend a few minutes to pray for each other.*

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

**All: We will be joyful in the Lord.**

Leader: Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

**All: We will be joyful in the Lord.**

Leader: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**All: We will be joyful in the Lord.**

Leader: As we come to worship today, let us focus on the God of our salvation, and thank God for his everlasting Love. Let us rejoice in the Lord!

**All: We will be joyful in the Lord. AMEN**

# Connect Groups and Spiritual Friends

WELCOME | WORSHIP | WORD | WITNESS

## WORD (40 minutes)

**Read Aloud: Philippians 1:1-11**

What strikes you in what the passage says?

What struck you in the sermon on this passage?

What difference does the cross make in this story?

Where does this passage apply to your life right now?

What is a faithful response to this passage this week?

## WITNESS (15 minutes)

Chris Koch preached about how joy and rejoicing are not feelings but practices and spiritual disciplines that can lead us to perseverance, hope, and also witness in the world to the gospel.

What is the relationship between joy, service and mission?

What is one relationship or situation that you could practice joy in? If you did that, what difference do you think it would make?

What is your next step in practicing joy?

Is there any way that this group could practice Joy together as a part of our witness to the gospel? (Read Phil 4:4-8 for ideas).