

Life Group Questions
September 19, 2021

How to Handle Suffering
Philippians 1:12-20



Connecting

What is your favorite food(s) to eat when you are stressed out or having a pity party?

Observation

Read Philippians 1:12-20. What stands out to you about this passage?

What was Paul referring to when he said “what has happened to me...” in verse 12? How did his situation serve to advance the gospel?

Paul said that some preached Christ from envy and rivalry, seeking to hurt Paul. What was Paul’s response to this?

Why did Paul say that he rejoiced in verse 18?

What allowed Paul to be able to rejoice despite his circumstances?

Living

Jeremy talked about missionary Allen Gardiner, who kept a journal as he was starving to death due to shipwreck. As he was starving to death he quoted Psalm 34:10 in his journal. His last written words were “I am overwhelmed by the sense of the goodness of God.” What do you think allowed him to be able to write something like that?

Paul used his suffering as an opportunity to advance the gospel. Share an example in your life of when God used you through a difficult situation in your life to bring himself glory.

Some of the believers in this passage of Philippians had wrong motives for spreading the gospel. What are some wrong motives that you may be tempted to have in your own ministry?

How does having a love for God and a love for people that is greater than a love for self help to endure suffering? How does/could this impact you in your own life?

Read verses Philippians 1:18-20. How are you suffering? How do these verses help you in your suffering?

Prayer Together

Pray that God would help us to rejoice despite difficult circumstances, and use these circumstances to advance the gospel.

Take prayer requests and pray for one another.