



Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Westwood Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama
Jay Gordon, Pastor of Small Groups
Trey Murphy, Home Groups Director
WestwoodGroups.com

The House that Joy Built: No Matter What

Les Hughes

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SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:1-30

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons^[a]:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

ENGAGE

Do you think most people in our community have real joy? What determines whether most people are joyful in life?

DISCUSS

1. Read the focal passage above. What stands out to you?
2. Do we really realize that eventually adversity comes into every person's life, including ours? What is the greatest adversity you've ever faced? How did you deal with it and your faith?
3. Today we'll talk about the keys to having a joy. What keys can you think of initially?

4. What is the difference in joy and happiness? Happiness is determined by circumstances, but joy is not affected by them. Explain the difference.
5. Another key is to have a thankful heart. How can we work to improve in this area?
6. How can we be the kind of people that when others think of us that they are thankful?
7. Another key is to have a confidence in God's plan for our lives. Tell of a time God has brought a big and/or unexpected change and you trusted him.
8. Another key is to have a clear conscience before God. If we have a guilty conscience, what are the things to be done to make that right?
9. Another key is to see the big picture. How can we work on that?

YOUR NEXT STEP

What is God calling you to do this week to live a more joyful life and be more of a blessing to others?

OPTIONAL OUTLINE (I Am Second Group Outline)

Read the focus passage.

1. What do you like about the passage?
2. What do you dislike or find confusing?
3. What do we learn about God from this passage?
4. What do we learn about man, or about ourselves?
5. How is God speaking to you through this passage?
6. What specific thing will you do this week to be obedient to what God is speaking to you?

OTHER PASSAGES CITED

Remainder of Philippians Passage

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, ^[b] that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard ^[c] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in

chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, ²⁸ striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.