

# HERITAGE PARK

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ALLIANCE CHURCH

Week 1 - Joy Unchained

## Joy-Full

Encouragement from the Book of Philippians

### *Philippians 1*

3-6 I thank my God every time I remember you. I always pray with joy for all of you because of your partnership in the gospel, 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.

12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him

### Reflection Questions

1. Paul is joyful as he prays for the Philippians, (Phil 1:1-11) remembering the great relationships he had with them as he planted their church. Review Acts 16:16-40. Consider the congregation: wealthy businesswoman Lydia and her staff, a former demon possessed slave girl, a hardened jailer and his family, and likely fellow prisoners- how did such a diverse group form a church that would bring such delight to Paul?
2. Paul had been a prisoner for 5 years and had recently been moved from house arrest to a cell. How did he interpret these circumstances? (Phil 1:12-14)
3. Notice how people acted in response to Paul's situation. Why? How could Paul continue to rejoice? (15-18)
4. What was Paul uncertain about? (19-26) How did his understanding of life help him face uncertainty, fear and death? What 'shame' or failure was he concerned about?
5. Paul urges the Philippians to act as citizens (they were Roman citizens). What did he mean, and how should it affect their, and our response to fear, opposition, and suffering? (27-30, 3:20,21)

