

## Intro

Why is joy important in living out God's calling on our lives as Christians?

## Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the historical context of Paul's letter to the Philippians (*Also see Acts 16:11-40 and note in your study Bible for help...*)

- Where is Philippi located?
- Why was it significant in Paul's day?
- Where was Paul when he wrote this letter?
- What is the dominant theme of Philippians?

2. In what ways is it significant that Paul refers to the Philippian believers as "saints"?

- Why do you think this is, and what does it communicate about their identity in Christ?
- Are there other places in Scripture where you have noticed this same truth? Where?
- What implications does this have for us today as we live out our faith?

3. What do the terms "overseer" and "deacon" mean?

4. Paul is filled with great joy when he thanks God for the Philippians partnership in the gospel. What are the goals of this partnership?

a) How have the Philippians demonstrated their participation with Paul (see 1:19; 2:25; 4:14-18)?

b) In what ways are partnerships essential in gospel ministry?

5. Read verse 6 carefully. Why is it that Paul has so much confidence regarding the Philippian church?

- What is the “good work” that was begun in them and who started this work?
- What does Paul mean when he says that God will carry this work on to completion? When will this take place?
- In what ways does this verse encourage and stir you up to continue pursuing Jesus Christ? How might you go about sharing this with others this week?

### Breakout

1. Most small groups have several new members. Therefore, it is important to get to know each other. *(Have group members share: who they are, what they do, how long they've been at Harvest and one fun thing about themselves...)*

2. What is one way Pastor Ross's sermon and this study have challenged or encouraged in your walk with Christ?

3. Scripture reading challenge... Consider reading Philippians together as a small group *(Break it up over 4 weeks by reading 1 chapter (5x's) each week. Make note, pray through the text and seek application for your own life...)*

4. Take time to pray together, seeking to encourage one another in the Lord.