



Sermon Questions

January 11th, 2026 | Scripture: Acts 16:11-15, Philippians 1:1-11 – Joy in Community

Pre-study: 3 things from the sermon. *Write down 3 ideas, illustrations, quotes, or points that made an impression in the sermon.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these passages that trace the theme of Christian community throughout the scriptures:

- Genesis 2:15-24
- Exodus 19:1-6
- Psalm 133
- John 13:31-35
- Acts 2:42-47
- 1 Peter 2:9-12

Pray: Psalm 133 is a meditation on what it is like to dwell in joyful unity with one another. Take time to pray through this Psalm, stopping to thank the Lord for the joy of community you have experienced. Then pray specifically for a few people in the church you would like to grow in unity, forgiveness, and joy with in the new year.

Core Questions

1. How does knowing that Paul is writing this letter from prison help us see that joy in community does not have to be tied to our circumstances?
2. What are some common interests that our church or small group might be tempted to think define us, and how does Paul redirect us in this passage?
3. In Philippians 1:1-7, Paul names three identities that define gospel community – Slaves of Christ, Saints in Christ, and Sharers in Grace. Which one sticks out to you most and why?
4. Verse 6 shows us that God finishes his work in us through real people and relationships. How does this instruct how we are to engage one another even when community gets messy?
5. Verse 8 reveals that joy in community comes through vulnerability. What makes vulnerability difficult in Christian community and how can we take small steps to grow in this together?

Inward Grace in Action

1. How does Christ's love free us to be vulnerable with one another?

Outward Grace in Action

1. Who might the Lord have placed in your relational orbit that you can invite into deeper community in the immediate future? Whether that be someone inside or outside the church...
2. Take time to break up into small groups of 2-3 people and pray verses 9-11 for one another. Ask that the Lord would cause your love to abound more and more for the gospel, and for one another.

Serve: One of the best ways to find joy in community is in serving together. Through February 1st, support local parents at Assist Pregnancy Center and Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center by donating a new Pack 'n Play or car seat! Order directly from our Amazon Wish List and deliver to MPC!

Donate at: mcleanpres.org/serve

Look Ahead: Next week we will continue in our sermon series on the book of Philippians. The scripture passage will be Philippians 1:12-18a where we will see how the Apostle Paul calls us to find joy in the purpose the Lord has for our lives.

For Families: Ideas of how to keep the conversation going at home, in the car, or around the dinner table:

1. **A - Ask about the message:** Ask your children to give reasons why they enjoy the friends God has given them.
2. **S – Share your thoughts:** Share how making friends based on shared interests is a wonderful gift from God. Then explain that in Jesus, we share something that is greater than hobbies or preferences, his love! This love enables us to be friends with all kinds of people in the church!
3. **K – Keep it going:** Identify one or two people in the church to encourage or extend thankfulness for. Write a note, or make a small craft to do so. As you finish, pray that the Lord would knit your hearts further together with theirs in love for Christ!