



# Sermon Questions

January 18th, 2026 | Scripture: Philippians 1:12-18a – Joy in God's Plan

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 suffering for the advance of the gospel throughout the scriptures:

- Psalm 22
- Isaiah 53:10-12
- John 12:20-26
- Acts 8:1-8
- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
- 2 Timothy 2:1-13

### Core Questions

1. Verse 12 mentions that “what has happened to Paul” has served to advance the gospel. Take time to read Acts 16:16-40 together to understand exactly what Paul is referring to here.
2. With that context in mind, how does Paul’s suffering “advance” the gospel in the lives of the guards and his fellow believers as mentioned in verses 12-14.
3. How does Paul’s suffering for the sake of the gospel both challenge our desire to avoid suffering for Christ’s sake and encourage us in our own American context as Christians?
4. Although our context is different than the Apostle Paul’s, there is still a cost in sharing the gospel. What are the social, relational, emotional, or professional costs of sharing the gospel today?
5. Why does Paul care not only about the content of the gospel, but also the motives with which it is preached in verses 15-17?
6. Verse 18 shows us that joy is what sustains Paul in his suffering. How is Paul’s joy different than just staying positive?

### Inward Grace in Action

1. Suffering for the advancement of the gospel is costly. What encouragement from Christ and from his people do we need to endure in our Christian walk?

### Outward Grace in Action

1. Who are the people in your life who it might cost you to share the gospel with them? How can you take the next step to share it with them for Christ’s sake?

### Scripture Memory Challenge:

If we are going to suffer for Christ’s sake, we must be equipped with the sword of the Spirit and the word of God! During this sermon series, our challenge to you and your CG is to memorize Philippians 2:5-11. This is the heart of the entire letter that will equip our hearts to live with resilient joy.

*Serve:* Many of our global mission partners minister in places where suffering and persecution are daily realities. Using the list given below, take time to lift them up in prayer. Pray for strength amidst their trials. Pray for joy amidst their sufferings. Pray that the gospel would go forth through their ministries that others might know Christ!

- EAST-WEST Cuba
- Serge – Tom and Jane Wills
- The Philemon Project

*Look Ahead:* Next week we will continue in our sermon series on the book of Philippians. The scripture passage will be Philippians 1:18b-30 where we will see how the Apostle Paul calls us to live in joyful citizenship.

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 what they would be willing to pay a high price for to have?
2. **S – Share your thoughts:** Whether that be a toy, experience, or relationship we are willing to pay a cost for the things that we love. Share with your children that Jesus loved us so much that he gave his own life for us on the cross. The gospel then becomes something that we love and cherish so much that we are willing to give up anything so that others may hear about Jesus.
3. **K – Keep it going:** Identify one or two people in the lives of your kids who don’t know Jesus. Take time to begin praying for those people and that God would give your family wisdom on how to show them the love of Christ together.