

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FEBRUARY 1/2 | TOGETHER | PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

FOR STARTERS

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or raised questions?
2. Describe a time when you were in a difficult or painful situation. How did your perspective on the situation affect your experience, your attitude or how you responded?

DIGGING IN

1. Read Philippians 1:1-8.
 - How would you describe Paul's perspective on suffering?
 - What emotions does he express towards them?
 - How might God's grace help someone suffer for, defend and confirm the gospel?
 - If you were in a situation like the Philippians, how would hearing Paul's positive perspective affect you?
2. Read Philippians 1:9-11.
 - Paul desires the Philippians' love to abound more and more with knowledge and discernment. How might a lack of that hinder them from abounding in love?
 - What do we learn about Paul's perspective on life from his prayer?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. Think of the Christians that know you best. What in your life would cause them to thank God, rejoice and have confidence that God is at work in your life?
2. Think about the non-Christians that know you best. What in your life would cause them to want to believe and follow Christ?
3. In what ways do you see a lack of good perspective keeping you from abounding in love for God, or for others?
4. How can you allow those who have a positive perspective on life and suffering walk alongside you and encourage you?