

# HOPE

## HOME GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**READ** Philippians 1:18b-26

**SHARE** words, phrases, truths that stuck out to you; any questions you have; new insights.

**DISCUSS** the passage together.

1/ Philippians is both a letter *of* joy and a letter *from* jail. How can both be true? What does Paul share in this passage that distinguishes *Christian* joy from mere happiness or comfort?

2/ "... my deliverance" in v. 19 most likely refers to Paul's eternal deliverance, or salvation. Paul is confident that whether he lives or dies, he is saved and Christ will be honored. How does that kind of assurance lead to joy?

3/ What does v. 21 imply about Christian joy? Pray as a group that v. 21 could also be your words too!

4/ Paul can't decide which is better: longer life or seeing Jesus face to face. Ultimately, he chooses longer life so that he could serve others, that they would progress in the faith and have more *joy*. How could you incorporate these priorities of Paul's into your life mission?

5/ What does it mean to "glory in Christ Jesus?" (v. 26)

**APPLY** the text to your life (these questions from Redeemer NYC might help).

1/ How can I praise him?

2/ How can I confess my sins on the basis of this text?

3/ If this is really true, what wrong behavior, what harmful emotions or false attitudes result in me when I forget this?

4/ What should I be aspiring to on the basis of this text?

5/ God, why are you telling me this today?

**PRAY** together for the things you just shared, and also for anything else in your life.