



NEED TO KNOW

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO HAVE A FAITH THAT SURVIVES & THRIVES IN A CHALLENGING WORLD
A.K.A. THE LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Week 1: We need to know the ending. Philippians 1:1-30

PARK
CHURCH

We all want to be able to face what comes into our lives with faith and hope. Imagine navigating life with joy, peace, contentment and courage that do not depart when the going is tough. That's what God wants for us! Let's explore what we NEED TO KNOW in order to make this our normal way of life.

Read Philippians Chapter 1

Paul starts this letter thanking God for his friends. These are not fair-weather friends. These are those who have been there for him in the most difficult times of his life. They have stuck with him. They are brothers and sisters in Christ and partners in ministry. They share a common goal with Paul - to see the love of God touch more lives through the gospel (the good news of Jesus).

Reread 1-11

- Consider what kind of people these friends must have been that Paul would give thanks to God at the very thought of them. Do you have a friend like this? If so, share what he/she is like.
- What do you think “fellowship of the gospel” means? How do you and your friends share in God’s good work at Park Church, in your Community Group, or elsewhere?
- Read verses 9-11 and reflect on the content of Paul’s prayer for them.
 - **PRAYER POINT:** Save time to pray for one another along these lines later.

Paul wrote this letter from an intense place of suffering in his life. Even so, he was experiencing joy that was independent of what life was throwing at him. Does your faith deliver that for you? If not, you may need to look ahead to the end of the story. Every Christ follower can be assured of a WIN-WIN when all is said and done.

Reread 12-26

- What are some of the good things that happened as a result of Paul’s hardship?
- What are some good things that have happened in your life as a result of some hardship you or someone else has experienced?
- Paul saw two ways out of prison. How did he express his feelings on this to his friends?
- Talk about “The Pillow of God’s Sovereignty”.
- In what current situation do you NEED TO KNOW “God’s got this” & “God’s got you?”

Spend time praying for one another. You may want to split up into smaller groups: guys/gals. **Close your time together by reading Philippians 1:6.**