

Small Group Discussion Guide

****The Chains of Confidence**** | Philippians 1:3-14

Opening Prayer

Begin by thanking God for His faithfulness and asking Him to speak to your group through His Word today.

Icebreaker

****Share a time when you felt "stuck" in a difficult circumstance. How did you respond?***

Key Scripture

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* – Philippians 1:6

Discussion Questions

1. ****Remembering God's Faithfulness**** (Philippians 1:3-5)

- Paul writes from prison with thanksgiving and joy. What does this reveal about where he's placing his focus?
- ****Personal reflection:**** What are you choosing to remember right now—your chains or God's faithfulness? How does what you focus on shape your confidence?

2. ****The Unfinished Work**** (Philippians 1:6)

- Pastor Mark said, "You feel unfinished, but unfinished does not mean forsaken." How does this truth speak to your current season?
- What's the difference between feeling incomplete and understanding you're being formed into Christ-likeness?
- ****Challenge:**** Where do you need to stop seeing yourself as "not good enough" and start seeing yourself as "in progress"?

3. ****Locked In vs. Locked Up**** (Philippians 1:7-8)

- Paul was physically chained but spiritually locked in to God's purpose. What's the

difference?

- **Honest moment:** What circumstance are you tempted to let consume you with self-pity or bitterness? How can you shift from "God, get me out of this" to "God, what can I get out of this?"

4. **The Good Work: Love, Knowledge, Discernment** (Philippians 1:9-11)

Pastor Mark outlined God's work in us as:

- **Bigger love** (for God and people)
 - **Wiser love** (knowledge and insight)
 - **Discernment** (asking "Is it wise?" not just "Is it wrong?")
 - **Purity and fruit** (becoming, not just doing)
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- Which of these areas do you sense God developing in you right now?
 - **Maturity check:** Are you more focused on behavior modification or heart transformation? How can you tell the difference?

5. **Chains Turned into Microphones** (Philippians 1:12-14)

- Paul's chains became his platform for the gospel. The guards assigned to watch him became his audience.
- **Perspective shift:** Who has God "assigned" to your life that you wish wasn't there? Could they actually be your audience for the gospel?
- How did Paul's confidence in chains inspire confidence in other believers? (v. 14) Who might be watching your response to difficulty right now?

Personal Application

This week, I will:

- Thank God for one specific thing even in my difficult circumstance
- Ask God, "What do You want to do in me and through me while I'm here?"
- Choose to see myself as "in progress" rather than "not enough"
- Identify one person God has assigned to my life and pray for an opportunity to point them to Jesus

Closing Prayer

*God, thank You that You are a starter, a sustainer, and a finisher. We trust that what

You've begun in us, You will complete. Help us not to waste the seasons we're in, but to be confident that You are with us and working in us. Turn our chains into microphones for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Going Deeper

- Read Philippians 1 in its entirety this week
- Memorize Philippians 1:6
- Journal: Where do I feel most "unfinished" right now? What might God be forming in me through this?