



As we study the book of Philippians, we must remember that Paul wrote this letter from a Roman jail cell. Paul had been wrongly arrested at the Temple in Jerusalem because some Jews thought he had brought a Gentile into the Temple Court. This caused a commotion, and Paul was arrested and beaten. He was kept in chains because the Jews were looking for a way to kill him. Paul was ultimately taken to Rome where he wrote a letter to the church in Philippi while under house arrest. Paul learned through this experience that his suffering gave him an opportunity to glorify God. Through all of this, Paul found joy in his hardship.

1. Neal shared a story about David McIntyre and his time on a show called *Alone*. On the show David spoke about how suffering shapes us into the people we are today. Share a time when you suffered and how it shaped your life.
2. **Read Philippians 1:12-14.** Paul found a boldness to share his faith while being locked up in Rome. What motivates you to share your faith? On the other side, what keeps you from sharing your faith? (See **2 Timothy 4:5** about sharing your faith.)
3. Paul was jailed in a private house while being chained to a Roman guard all day long. His chains gave him a boldness to proclaim the Gospel message. What do you feel chained to right now and how can you find boldness to share the gospel?
4. Paul encourages the church to keep Christ first and to keep proclaiming the Gospel no matter the situation. **Read Philippians 1:15-18.** Why is Satan happy when he sees conflict arise in the church?
5. Paul had sufficient courage to face the task at hand. **Read Philippians 1:18b-21.** Courage is a quality we see in many of our heroes of the faith. **Read Daniel 1,** and talk about how both Paul and Daniel had courage in their unique circumstances.
6. **Read Philippians 1:22-26.** Paul longed to be with the church and to be with the Lord. He knew it was better for him to stay. Who has God placed in your circle of influence that you can encourage with the love of God this week?
7. At the end of chapter one we learn about conducting ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel. **Read Philippians 1:27-30.** Share one area in which you think you excel in conducting yourself in a worthy manner and one area in which you would like to improve your conduct.
8. Close your time in prayer by praying for the ministry of Family to Family.