



## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title of the Sermon:** Advancing Through Adversity

**Series Name:** Philippians: Unshakeable Joy

**Main Text:** Philippians 1:12–27

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### Introduction

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend's passage and apply it to your life. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there's no need to go through them all. To learn more, visit [silverdalebc.com/smallgroups](http://silverdalebc.com/smallgroups).

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### Icebreaker Options

- What's a small struggle from this week you can already laugh about?
- When adversity hits, what is your first reaction: fear, frustration, prayer, or perseverance?

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### Leader's Note

Paul writes these words from prison, yet his focus is not on his chains but on Christ's work. This passage challenges us to see adversity not as an obstacle, but as an opportunity for God to advance His purposes.

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### 1: God Uses Adversity to Advance the Gospel

#### Key Scripture

“What has happened to me has actually advanced the gospel.” (*Philippians 1:12-14*)

#### Discuss

1. How does Paul's perspective on his imprisonment challenge the way we normally view hardship?

2. What evidence do you see in this passage that God was working through Paul's adversity?
3. Where might God be using a difficult circumstance in your life to accomplish something bigger than you can currently see?

#### **Leader's Note**

Paul refuses to see his suffering as wasted. Instead, he recognizes that God is using it to spread the gospel and strengthen other believers.

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### **2: Joy Is Anchored in Christ, Not Circumstances**

#### **Key Scripture**

“For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (*Philippians 1:18-21*)

#### **Discuss**

1. Why was Paul able to rejoice even when others preached Christ with impure motives?
2. What does it mean for Christ to be the center of our joy?
3. How does Paul's statement in verse 21 challenge the way you define a “good life”? What would it look like to change the way you look at success in your own life?

#### **Leader's Note**

Paul's joy flows from a Christ-centered life. When Christ is our focus, circumstances lose their power to determine our joy.

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### **3: A Gospel-Worthy Life Requires Courage and Unity**

#### **Key Scripture**

“Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” (*Philippians 1:27*)

#### **Discuss**

1. What does it look like to “stand firm in one spirit” when facing opposition or adversity?
2. Why are unity and courage so important for believers during difficult seasons? What's one way you can take the initiative to stand alongside someone battling adversity or hardship this week?
3. What is one practical way you can live more intentionally for the gospel this week?

#### **Leader's Note**

Paul closes this section by calling believers to perseverance and unity. Advancing through adversity is not a solo effort—it happens as we stand together in faith.

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**Closing Prayer**

Invite the group to pray for trust in God's purposes during adversity, courage to live for Christ, and unity within the body. Encourage prayer for specific challenges and needs shared by the group.