



Sermon Discussion Guide

Title of the Sermon: Love and Prayers

Series Name: Philippians: Unshakeable Joy

Main Text: Philippians 1:3–11

Introduction

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message 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.

Icebreaker Option

- Think about a place or group where you immediately felt welcomed. What made it feel that way?

Leader's Note

Paul writes this passage from prison, yet his heart overflows with gratitude, confidence, and prayer for others. This session highlights how **healthy Christian community**—thankful, confident, prayerful partnership—plays a vital role in experiencing lasting joy.

1. We Should Be Thankful for Other Christians

Key Scripture

“I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you.” (*Philippians 1:3–4*)

Discuss

1. Why do you think Paul is able to remember the Philippians with gratitude despite previous painful experiences there?

2. How can gratitude and joy influence the way we remember people from our past?
3. What would change in your relationships if you intentionally focused on God's work in others?

Leader's Note

Gratitude reshapes memory. When we look for God's activity in people rather than their failures, bitterness fades and joy rises.

2. We Should Be Confident of God's Work**Key Scripture**

"I am confident of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (*Philippians 1:6*)

Discuss

1. What encourages you most about knowing that your spiritual growth is ultimately God's work?
2. How does seeing your life as "under construction" affect your patience with yourself and others?
3. Where might God be using difficulty right now to shape something good in you?

Leader's Note

God never abandons His projects. Spiritual growth is gradual, intentional, and guaranteed—God finishes what He starts.

3. We Should Be Partners in God's Work**Key Scripture**

"You are all partners with me in grace... in the defense and confirmation of the gospel." (*Philippians 1:7*)

Discuss

1. What's the difference between being a participant and a partner in the church? Honestly, which one are you?
2. In what ways are you currently invested in God's work through the local church? How does that deepen your sense of shared mission?
3. What are some steps you can take this year to become more of a partner in the church?

Leader's Note

Partnership means ownership. When the gospel becomes our "family business," commitment deepens and joy grows.

4. We Should Be Prayerful for Other's Growth

Key Scripture

“And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing... filled with the fruit of righteousness.”
(*Philippians 1:9–11*)

Discuss

1. How do Paul’s prayers differ from the way we often pray for one another?
2. What does it look like for love and character to keep growing in everyday life?
3. Who could you begin praying for regularly with a focus on spiritual growth rather than circumstances?

Leader’s Note

Paul prays for transformation, not just relief. When we pray for love, discernment, and Christlike character, we align our prayers with God’s long-term work.

Closing Prayer

Invite the group to thank God for the people He has placed in their lives. Pray for deeper love, growing Christlike character, and a stronger commitment to God’s work together. Allow time to share personal needs and lift them to the Lord in prayer.