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**Introduction**

A recurring theme in scripture is how God takes events that seem to be leading to defeat and turns them into a victory that no one really saw coming. As Paul writes from prison, he is aware that might be happening again.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Describe an experience that you thought as you were going through it that it was the worst…but in hindsight it was really a good thing.
2. Read Philippians 1:12-13 If you were a part of one of the churches that Paul started, what do you imagine you would be thinking/feeling when you hear that he is in prison in Rome? Do you think it would inspire you to share your faith, or be very cautious?
3. Read Philippians 4:22- What is remarkable about this verse?
4. Read Philippians 1:20-25 What is going on with Paul talking about not knowing which to choose? Explain the phrase – “to live is Christ, to die is gain.”
5. Read Philippians 1:27-30 What does it look like to “conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel”?
6. How can service bring joy in the midst of difficult circumstances? Have you ever witnessed or experienced this?
7. Paul tells this church that they’ve been “granted” the opportunity to suffer. What might suffering for Christ look like in your context? How can suffering be a gift?

**Shaping Your Mind –** *“For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21*

**Moving Forward –** Whatever happens this week, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel!