

Giving Joy

Week 1 – Partnership

Transition: In last week's text Paul rejoiced in the Philippians' revived support for him. He then shared that it was Christ's strength that enabled him to be content in any situation.

Check Point: Would anyone like to share something they worked on from last week's discussion?

Context: In this week's text, Paul acknowledges the Philippians' kindness in sharing his hardship and highlights their early partnership in his ministry, including their support while he was in Thessalonica.

Opening Questions:

- Think of a time in your life when you faced challenges financially, emotionally, and relationally. What kept you stable?
- What helps you to remain humble and generous during this stretch of your life?

Scripture/Storying: Philippians 4:14-17

Discipleship Questions:

- What makes you feel supported when walking through hardships? How might you become more aware of the burdens people in your context carry but keep hidden?
- What does "partnership in the gospel" look like for you in this present season of your life? Why do you think partnership in the gospel is critical?
- What has influenced your view of generosity throughout your life? Why do you think the Philippians had such a big heart to support Paul in his ministry? How is God leading you to demonstrate generosity at this time whether in big ways or small?
- What fruit would you like to see produced in the lives of others as a result of your life? How is God leading you to start investing in the lives of others to get that process started?
- What makes receiving help from others easy or difficult for you? How can you determine when you should accept help instead of trying to cope all by yourself?
- What people in your life have consistently invested in your growth as a believer? Why do you think the Philippians' ongoing investment in Paul's ministry created a tight relationship with them? How might you invest spiritually in your relationships with others for the long haul?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: Redeem All Ministries

- Pray for RAM's children's ministry teachers as they prepare Christmas parties, asking God to give them strength, creativity, joy, and guidance to plan meaningful programs for the children.
- Pray for God's protection over local children traveling during the holidays, asking Him to keep them safe and surround them with His covering wherever they go.