

Giving Joy

Week 2 – Sacrifice

Transition: In last week's text, Paul acknowledged the Philippians' kindness in sharing his hardship and highlighted their early partnership in his ministry, including their support while he was in Thessalonica.

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

Context: In this week's text, Paul lets the Philippians know that he has received the gifts that they sent by Epaphroditus. He goes on to describe their sacrificial giving as a fragrant aroma, pleasing to the Lord.

Opening Questions:

- Describe a book or movie that contained a theme of sacrifice and the effect it had on you.
- Describe a time when giving a gift brought you more joy than the one receiving it and why it brought you joy.

Scripture/Storying: Philippians 4:18

Discipleship Questions:

- Describe a time when God used someone else to supply you with an overabundance and the impact that it had on you. How can you practically be that someone to another in need?
- What is most challenging to you when it comes to sacrificing for God and others? Why might it be difficult to view your sacrifices you make for others as a pleasing aroma to God?
- What inspires you to go over and above to meet the needs of others? Why do you feel the need to go beyond expectations when it comes to helping out others? How do you decide what actions to take in order to go over and above meeting a person's needs?
- Why do you think sacrificial giving is pleasing to God? How can you shift your giving to mirror worship rather than a duty?
- When do you think a sacrifice might not be pleasing to God and why? How can you practically check your heart to make sure the sacrifices you make are for the right reasons and with the right motive?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: Street Hope TN

- Pray for the young survivor who will soon call Garland Oaks home. These first days can be filled with uncertainty, and the transition into a new space often brings mixed emotions. Pray that she feels safe, seen, and gently welcomed into a community of care. Ask God to steady her heart in this adjustment, to ease any fear or homesickness, and to surround her with peace as she begins her journey of healing.
- Pray over Garland Oaks as they continue to grow and prepare for the season ahead. Pray for the Lord to guide every need and every decision. Pray especially over their open interviews that the Lord would lead them to the right team members for this work.