

Rejoice in All Circumstances: Chains

Reflect

1. Think of a time you have had to go through something challenging. What was it?
2. How did you make it through this time? (If you are going through it now, what is helping you to move forward?)
3. As difficult of a question that this may be to answer, what is one good thing that came out of that situation?

Read Your Bible

- Philippians 1:12-30

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Why do you think people did not like it when Paul preached the Good News of Jesus?
2. What do you think it was that gave him strength to preach the Gospel, knowing it would land him in prison?

3. What do you think may have happened, or not have happened, if Paul had not faithfully preached the Gospel? Would it have been worth it? Why or why not?

4. Have you ever agreed with Paul's words, "I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far."? If so, what led you to repeat this statement?

5. Why do you think Paul goes on to say, "but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body."? How would you describe this tension between his two statements?

6. What are some ways we can find strength to continue our Christian faith even when life gets tough?

7. What are 2-3 ways we can show care, love and support to others in our world who are suffering for the Good News of Jesus?

Conclusion

When entering a new town, the Apostle Paul did not ask where the hotels were but asked where the jails were because he knew that is where he would be staying for the night. Yet, despite his negative circumstances, there was a peace knowing that God was using his bad situations for good. He was beaten, thrown in jail, could barely see... and yet, he rejoiced in the fact that everyone knew he was in chains for the Gospel. Therefore, he turned this negative situation into an opportunity to preach the Good News of forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ to those in the prison. He had turned his prison into a pulpit. No matter what we go through in this life, good or bad, God can strengthen us by the power of His Holy Spirit that even the worst of scenarios may be used to advance the Gospel and point people to eternal life with Jesus.

Pray

Father in Heaven, we thank You that in Christ, You make everything new. You take what is bad and turn it into good. We confess that we have not always honored You with our lives but thank You that in Christ we are a new creation. For the old is gone and the new has come. Continue to refine us, we ask, so that we may walk in forgiveness, and move forward delighting in Your will and walking in Your ways. To the glory of Your holy name. Amen.