

**Part 1: Joy no matter what**

**Big Idea/Points**

You can know JOY NO MATTER what like Paul did by sharing three key features of his life, His;

* PRIORITY in his labour: Gospel Advance
* PERSPECTIVE on his life: Eternal fruit
  + Focus on what really matters / Stop asking why? / Start asking what?
* PASSION of his life: Jesus!

**Discussion Questions**

* Have you got a leading PRIORITY in your life – what is it? Does your calendar, bank transactions and thought life reflect this?
* When things don’t go ‘as you expected’ how do you wrestle with the WHY and WHAT questions? How can you change your PERSPECTIVE and live with an eternal view?
* How is your personal affection for Jesus? Can you say like Paul that you find it difficult to work out what you want most…to go and be with Jesus or to serve his purposes here on earth?
* What practical steps can you take to foster a healthier Priority, perspective and passion?

**Next Steps**

* Ask two people who know you best, and whom you trust, to help you assess whether your life is moving in a healthy or unhelpful trajectory in terms of priorities, perspectives and passion.

**Prayer Focus**

Have your group pair-up to pray, men with men, and women with women, that God will give you the ability to focus on the “What?”...what He is doing in you, what He is desiring to teach you, etc., and to stop allowing yourself to be stalled in the “Why?”...Why me Lord?, Why did you let this happen to me?. etc.

**Leader Tips**

 Look for ways to bring transparency to the group, sharing personal examples about learning joy in difficult circumstances. Ask someone from the group in advance to share their own story about joy in trials. 