

STUDY GUIDE: “Metamorphosis”

Discussion Starters

1. Did you make any New Year’s Resolutions? What has your success rate been in the past in keeping New Year’s Resolutions?
2. Why do we choose the beginning of the year to commit to improvement?

Study

3. To begin this study, read each passage below and get an understanding of the origins of the Philippian Church.

What led Paul to go to Philippi? (Acts 16:6-10)

What are some characteristics of the city of Philippi? (Acts 16:11-12)

Who was the first convert in Philippi? (Acts 16:14-15)

What is Paul’s history with imprisonment in Philippi? (Acts 16:16-24)

*Note – Paul’s imprisonment that caused him to write the letter to the Philippian church is a different arrest than the one in Acts 16.

To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASU, but the word you are trying to define is the Greek or Hebrew word translated by the NASU—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

4. Define the following words or terms. Note for each of them how understanding the meaning and background of that word better helped you understand this passage, and why you think that word was chosen for this study guide (i.e. “why look this up?”).

--“always” (Philippians 1:4)—

--“participation” (Philippians 1:5)

--“confident” (Philippians 1:6)—

--“abound” (Philippians 1:9)—

--“having been filled” (Philippians 1:11)—

Read Philippians 1:1-11

5. What emotion does Paul exude in the opening of this letter?

6. Paul is imprisoned while he writes to this church. Why is he feeling the above stated emotion, even while he is imprisoned?

7. Paul’s love for his Christian brothers and sisters leads him to encourage them to do what? (1:9-11)

Taking It Home

8. What are some areas of your Christian walk where you need growth?

9. Do you have a Christian community that is similar to what Paul had with the Philippian church? Why/Why not?