

# The Art of JOY, "I can't lose!"

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LIFE CENTER  
CHURCH

## JOHN 15:9-11 NIV

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

### 1. OUR CHAINS CAN BREAK OUR JOY OR OUR JOY CAN BREAK OUR CHAINS.

Two responses by God regarding our chains:

1. **God will BREAK our chains.**
2. **God will USE our chains.**

## PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14 NIV

*Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.*

### PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14 (The Message)

I want to report to you, friends, that my imprisonment here has had the opposite of its intended effect. Instead of being squelched, the Message has actually prospered. All the soldiers here, and everyone else, too, found out that I'm in jail because of this Messiah. That piqued their curiosity, and now they've learned all about him. Not only that, but most of the followers of Jesus here have become far more sure of themselves in the faith than ever, speaking out fearlessly about God, about the Messiah.

### 2. SUFFERING REVEALS OUR PRIORITIES IN A WAY THAT COMFORT CAN ONLY DREAM OF.

### 3. PEOPLE MAY NOTICE OUR VICTORIES, BUT THEY PAY ATTENTION TO HOW WE HANDLE DEFEAT.

## PHILIPPIANS 1:13 NIV

*As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.*

## PHILIPPIANS 1:18-26

### IT'S LOVE VERSUS MORE LIFE.

### START TALKING: Let's have a little fun (choose one)

1. If you could have a pause, rewind, or fast forward button on your life right now which would you choose and why?
2. If you go forward 10 years or go back 10 years what would you choose and why?
3. If you could permanently delete one chore of your to do list forever and you would never have to worry about it again, what would it be?

Talking about the message helps us turn what God says into personal action steps. Begin with the key questions, add any optional Scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps and praying over each other.

### READ THE SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

### START THINKING

1. What stood out to you in the message this week?
2. Our suffering can be like chains. Do you have any suffering/chains that you are carrying around? If so, would you be willing to share what they are?
3. How have you handled some of the "losses" life has handed you at this point? Do you think you could have handled them differently?
4. Have you ever thought about God possibly using your suffering to bring joy into others? How do you think that happens?
5. What other Scripture can you recommend to your group to read when facing losses that serve as chains?
6. How do we intentionally choose to live with JOY?

### START PRAYING

Life is always better in circles than in rows. Be intentional this week on praying over the "chains" that each person is carrying. Pray for those chains to be broken by God or used by God!