

FACING THE FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR

Pastor David Uth • Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Background

While Paul was in prison, he wrote an encouraging letter to the believers living in the city of Philippi to thank them for their concern and care for him as he faced an uncertain future. The entire book of Philippians is a call to rejoice regardless of one's circumstances because of the hope that believers have in Christ. The believers at Philippi also faced uncertainty in their lives as they tried to follow Jesus in an increasingly pagan and hostile world around them.

Like Paul and the church at Philippi, we are facing a future that seems uncertain. We have many questions and worries as to how the COVID-19 virus and its aftermath will affect our lives for the coming months. Today, Pastor David will encourage us to face our future without fear by helping showing us how we can rejoice in the Lord no matter how uncertain or unknown our future may seem in this present moment.

Service Notes

- I. The Problem:
- II. Our Response:
- III. God's Promise:

What is your biggest takeaway from today's message?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guided to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ What is making you the MOST anxious right now about this COVID-19 pandemic?

Talk it Over

- ▼ Knowing Paul is in prison as he writes this letter, what do you believe is the most surprising statement he makes?
- ▼ Go back and read verse six again. How does praying *with* thanksgiving help us avoid being anxious when we face difficult situations?
- ▼ In what ways can the peace of God “guard our hearts and minds” during this season?

Live it Out

- ▼ What is one ACTION you can take this week to help relieve the frustration, panic, stress, or anxiety of someone else in your circle of influence?