

# PHILIPPIANS

Finding Joy in Every Season



## FOR DISCUSSION

1. How do you respond when things do not go as planned?
2. What things are you passionate about? What do you spend most of your time thinking about, reading about or doing? What do you love?

## DIG DEEPER

The apostle Paul was passionate about following the Lord and doing His will, so when He was led by the Lord to bring a gift of money to the poor Christians in Jerusalem, he went without hesitation...even though many people warned him of the dangers that lay ahead. When he arrived in Jerusalem, things went well at first, but eventually unbelieving Jews told lies about Paul causing a riot so angry that Paul's life was in danger. He was rescued by a Roman guard, but arrested in the process and held in a special place until he could be taken to court. In the meantime, the angry, unbelieving Jews came up with a plan to kill Paul. Thankfully, Paul's nephew overheard this plan and made it known to the Roman soldiers who guarded Paul with 200 soldiers on his way to see the governor! The governor decided to keep him in jail until his trial. When the trial finally took place, the Jews still wanted him dead, so Paul asked for a trial before Caesar in Rome because he was a Roman citizen. Paul then set sail for Rome as a prisoner. It was quite the adventure. There were *dangerous* storms, **two weeks** without food, an *angel* appearing to strengthen Paul, a *shipwreck*, a poisonous **SNAKE BITE** that miraculously didn't harm Paul...and finally after 3 months, he arrived in Rome. Amazingly in Rome, Paul was not put in a jail cell but was placed under house arrest. He had to be chained to a Roman guard day and night in this home BUT he had the freedom to preach to anyone that came to visit Him! We will learn about Paul's influence and perspective under house arrest in today's lesson.

**Read & Reflect on Philippians 1:12-14** \*parents: consider reading in a paraphrase translation like NLT or ICB if it helps your children to better understand the verses.

1. We know from the book of Romans that it was Paul's great desire to go to Rome to strengthen the church there, *but it was probably never in his plan to go there in chains*. Even though this was not what Paul expected, hoped or planned, GOD had a plan. Did Paul's imprisonment mean he couldn't tell anyone about Jesus now?
2. Paul was in a house, free to teach and preach to anyone that came to him! He was also able to write letters to churches (which we have preserved in our Bible today)! Though, he had some freedoms, he was chained to a Roman guard 24 hours a day.

- a. What do you think it would be like to eat, sleep, write, and do everything else in life with your wrist chained to the wrist of a Roman soldier all day, every day? What would be the hardest part about that?
- b. What was Paul's attitude like?
- c. What effect did being chained to Paul have on the various guards that were chained to him? *\*They heard the gospel and they brought it back to Caesar's palace!*

*Draw a picture of what you think it would be like for Paul to be under house arrest, chained at the wrist to a Roman guard while he writes letters or teaches the people that visit.*



3. Since he was in prison, did it make the other Christians more scared or braver? Why?

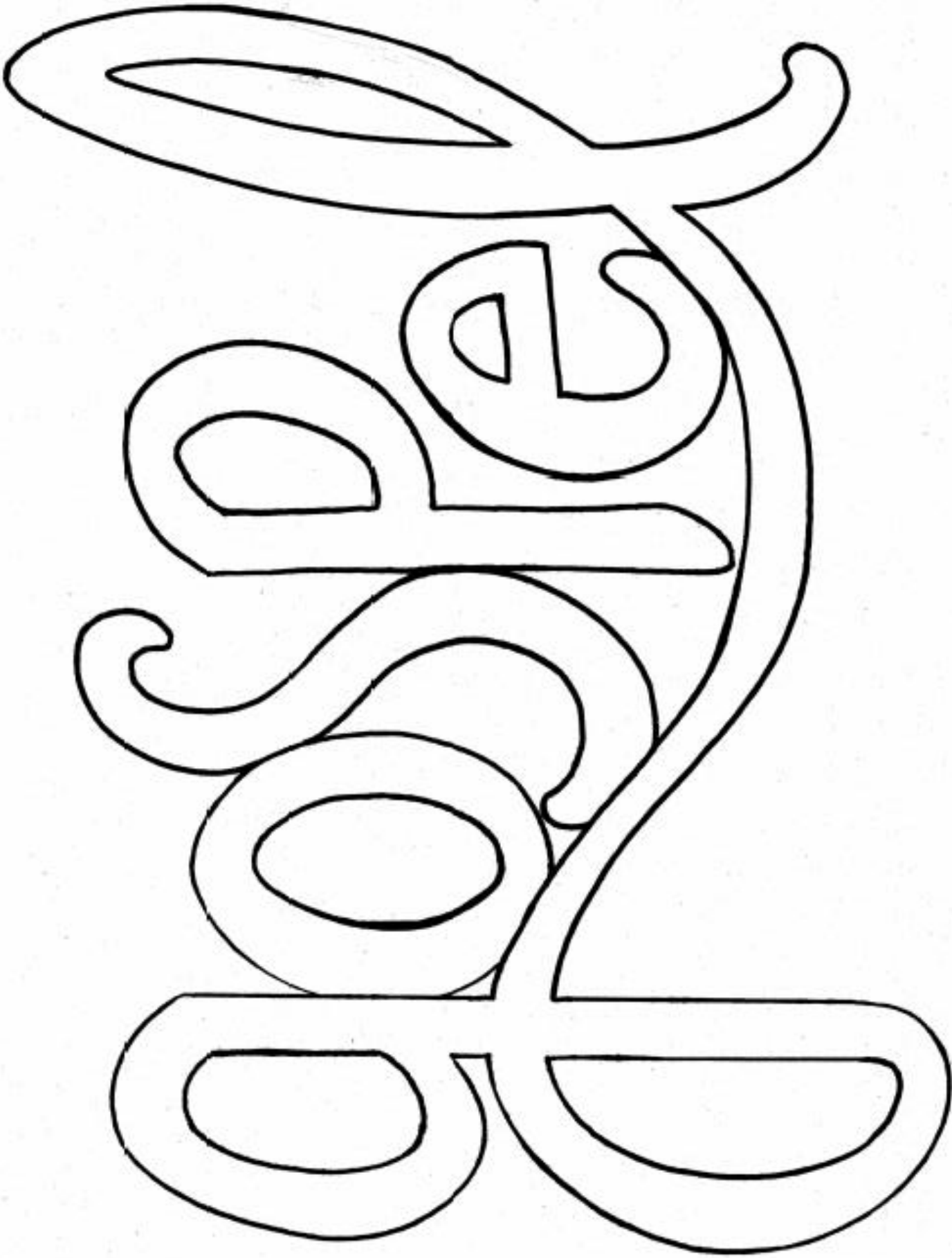
### **Read & reflect on Philippians 1:15-26**

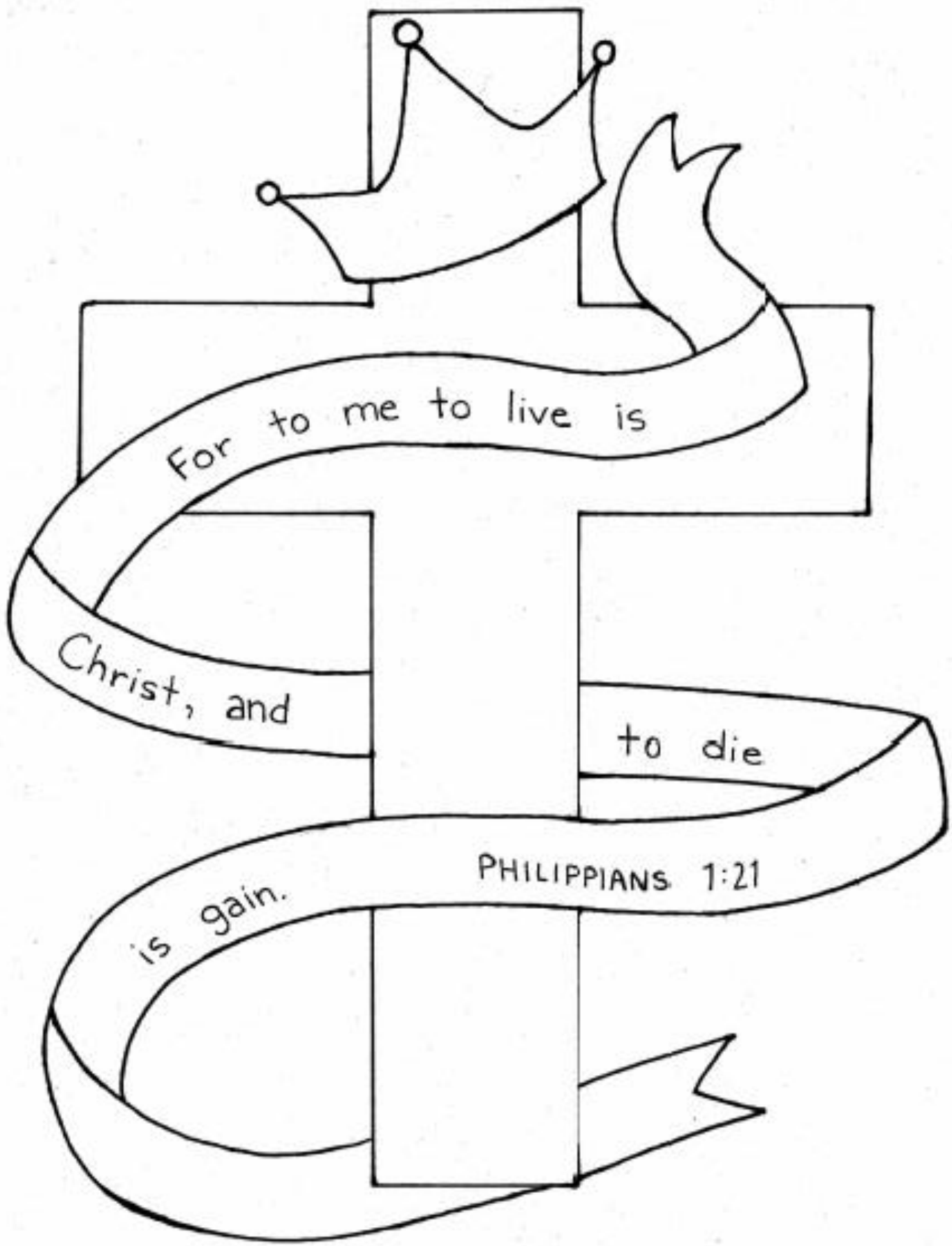
4. It is amazing that Paul has so much joy even though he is chained to a Roman guard 24/7 and people are saying things that are untrue about him because they are jealous. Why do you think he has so much JOY even in the midst of these hardships?
5. What is the most important thing in Paul's life? See Philippians 1:21
6. Is Paul afraid of dying? Why not?

### **PRAYER POINT**

- Pray for God would give you a love for the lost & a desire to share the gospel.
- Pray that Jesus would be the most important thing in your life!
- Pray for JOY in the Lord. Thank God that He is always with you in the good and in the hard and He will work all things for your good!







For to me to live is

Christ, and

to die

is gain.

PHILIPPIANS 1:21