



## ***Epicenter: Week 2 — “Philippi (Exchanging Sadness for Joy)”***

**CONNECT:** Do you have a favorite coffee mug or cup to drink from? What makes it so special?

### **GROW:**

1. What is the problem with what Scott called “Coffee Cup Christianity”? *Leader: This is where we take Bible verses and/or Christian phrases out of context and give them as simple fixes to people struggling.*
2. Let’s read through Paul’s letter to Philippi and see what God can teach us through these words that are often used out of context. *Leader: It will take about 15 minutes or less to read through the entire book of Philippians. If you have the time, please consider doing this with your group before reading the individual passages below.*
3. **Read Philippians 1:6.** It can be tough to believe this passage when you are going through difficult seasons. What “good work” in your life are you hoping to see God bring to completion?
4. **Read Philippians 2:5-11.** Paul was imprisoned under the government of Caesar, who claimed to be God. Paul made it clear that all people—including leaders, politicians, kings, terrorists, etc.—would bow to King Jesus. How should this encourage us? How should it clarify who we put our hope in?
5. **Read Philippians 3:13-14.** Which of these tends to control your thought life—the past or the future? What can you practically do to help dwell on the future reward promised by God?
6. **Read Philippians 4:4,11-13.** If anyone had an excuse to not rejoice, it would be Paul (see 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 for reference). Where in life do you need to rejoice? How can this group help you choose joy?

**PRAY:** Spend time praying for joy and for minds to be set on the future reward in Heaven.

**NEXT:** Spend the next four days reading through Philippians, whether it’s a chapter a day or reading the entire letter each day. Let Paul’s wisdom and joy inspire your hope in Jesus.