

# Habits of Happiness

God is in Control

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*Philippians 1:12-14 "And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. <sup>13</sup>For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear."* (NLT=New Living Translation)

## 1. Have a conviction that God is sovereign

*Philippians 1:12 "And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News." (NLT)*

*Psalms 73:28 "But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do." (NLT)*

- This conviction comes from \_\_\_\_\_ God
- This conviction comes from \_\_\_\_\_ God
- This conviction comes from a track record with God

## 2. View circumstances through the sovereignty lens

*Philippians 1:12 "And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. (NLT)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ God's sovereignty
- \_\_\_\_\_ God's sovereignty

*Psalms 56:3 "But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you." (NLT)*

- Rest in God's sovereignty

## 3. Look for pieces of God's bigger agenda

*Philippians 1:12-14 "...everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. <sup>13</sup>For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear." (NLT)*

- Always believe there is \_\_\_\_\_ than what you see

- Choose to see the \_\_\_\_\_ even in the chaos

#### 4. Trust God with the remaining messy pieces

*Philippians 1:15, 18 "It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives... Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice." (NLT)*

- Trust that God can use the \_\_\_\_\_ to accomplish His good
- Don't allow the imperfect to discourage you from continuing to \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalms 37:3 "Trust in the Lord and do good. Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness." (NASB=New American Standard Bible)*

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#### Discussion Questions:

1. How does Paul trust in God's sovereignty despite being in a Roman prison?
2. Discuss the three ways given how we can grow in trusting God's sovereignty when we go through difficult times.
3. How can we view our circumstances through a God sovereignty lens? Can you give some examples from your own life?
4. How can we be aware of God's bigger agenda even in our own chaos? Can you share examples from your own life?
5. Paul trusted God even when people were preaching the gospel with wrong motives to discourage Paul. How can we trust God with our remaining messy, painful pieces? How do we battle discouragement?

