



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 04 Feb 2024



Philippians 1:1-14

Partnership in the gospel—Rev. Ron Cross Open Doors

Warm Up

In the 1990s, Shearer and Sherringham (SAS) were a successful footballing partnership for England. Morecombe and Wise, entertained us all with their comedy, Lennon and McCartney wrote countless musical hits in the 1960s. Who is your favourite partnership? Why?

Background and context

Paul most likely wrote this letter whilst under house arrest in Rome around AD 61 (Acts 28). Philippi was a prosperous Roman colony in Macedonia, proud of their links to Rome. There were a limited number of Jews there. Paul writes to thank the church for their gift to him. He also encourages them to remain joyful even in times of persecution. He exhorts attitudes of humility, unity and service. The Church were under pressure from those who opposed Christ. His letter is designed to help them live through the persecution, imitating Christ.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Philippians 1:1-14. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. How does Paul feel about the church in Philippi? How do we know this?
2. How do you think the church in Philippi have partnered with Paul in the Gospel?
3. **Read v 7.** What is Paul suggesting about their partnership?
4. **Read v 12–14.** Paul is enduring suffering under house arrest, How does he feel about it?
5. What was the unexpected consequence of Paul's imprisonment?
6. How might this encourage the Philippian Church?
7. What kind of pressure is the UK Church under today?
8. **Read 1 Peter 2:11-17 and 3:15.** How should the church respond to these pressures?
9. How can the UK church partner with churches under pressure in the rest of the world?



10. In what ways does VBC stand with the persecuted church?
11. How are you personally able to support persecuted Christians across the world?
12. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.** Why MUST we be concerned for the persecuted church?
13. If you were struggling, where would you turn for help? How should this inspire us to partner with the persecuted church in whatever way we can?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.