

## **Philippians Chapter 4 (Material taken from N. T. Wright's Study on Philippians for Small Groups)**

### **Opening Question**

- What brought you joy this week? Why was this so joyful?

### **Verses 2-9: Ask someone to read these verses out loud**

#### **Ask people to share something that stands out for them**

Paul begins this closing chapter with a reminder to rejoice! He reaffirms the idea of thanksgiving and gratitude bursting out in praise even in the midst of trouble and difficulty. In verses?? He addresses and issue of disagreement and appeals for unity in the church.

What Paul suggest in verses 6 and 7 are an ongoing approach to worry and anxiety. Taking each and every situation to God in prayer, being thankful and trusting the peace of God.

### **Questions & Application**

- What does Paul suggest we do with our worry and what is the result?
- What causes you anxiety and how do you typically respond? How might Paul's instructions change how you handle anxiety?

### **Verses 10-23: Ask someone to read these verses out loud**

#### **Ask people to share something that stands out for them**

Verse 13: "I have strength for everything in Jesus". This is a new way of being human; different to the culture at the time. Paul goes on to talk about the effects of the church's generosity toward him (v18-19).

### **Question & Application**

- How does Paul's teaching on generosity challenge your current approach to financial stewardship?
- How might knowing that you live in a world in which the day of the Messiah is continually dawning strengthen you in your current circumstances, whether you are living "in plenty" or "in want"?