

**The setting** Phil 1: 12

**ad·ver·si·ty** *n.*

1. a state of wretchedness; poverty and trouble; a disaster; calamity.
2. anything that hinders the mind of Christ in the believer.

**A powerful mindset:**

1. Promotes Jesus not self and sees advantage in adversity. (Philippians 1:13-14) – *Learn it, link it.*
2. Does not take personal attacks personally by creating offense and giving the enemy a foothold in your life. (Philippians 1: 15-18) – *Learn it, link it.*
3. Gets its confidence from prayer and the Holy Spirit. (Philippians 1: 19) – *Learn it, link it.*
4. Is clear on both its purpose and perspective. (eternity) (Philippians 1:20-26) – *Learn it, link it.*
5. Is focused on the impact to others. (Philippians 1:27-30) – *Live it.*

*We invite you to use these notes to continue the conversation throughout the week. Whether online or in person, we need to connect together! So take that Next Step and find yours today! <https://rlc.pub/groups>*

**Share your story**

What insight, question, or resolution did you discover from our time of worship together on Sunday?

What are you looking forward to in 2021? What do you already see as a challenge that you'd like to bring to Jesus in prayer with your Life Group?

What is one thing, you have control over, that you would like to change this year?

**Connect to God's story**

***If you haven't yet, take a few minutes and read Paul's letter to the Philippians and jot down anything that comes to mind as you read.***

**Read Philippians 1:20-26.**

In this passage Paul writes about life and death. What is your perspective on life and death? Are you afraid of death or is it something you should look forward to as a follower of Jesus?

Think through your priorities and schedule from this last week. How would you honestly finish this phrase:

**For me, living means living for \_\_\_\_\_.”**

What would need to change to make it “Christ” in the blank above?

Why does Paul feel it is more necessary for him to remain even though it includes suffering and imprisonment?

What is something that you would like to accomplish before you die? How can Jesus be exalted in that goal being met?

**Read Philippians 1:27-30.**

Have you ever thought of trusting Christ or suffering for Him as a privilege? How do those two go together? How can having the subject of our suffering (Christ) help us endure, persevere and even grow?

How does knowing we are not alone in our struggle help open us to hear words of joy and encouragement from those partnering with us in our struggle?

*... Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*

- Philippians 4:8b (NLT)

**Real Life Prayer for 2021**

We have been on a journey together in 2020. We have prayed for a deeper, intimate, personal, and dependent relationship with all of God— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

As we step into the new year let us build on all God has done, let us step boldly. Our word for Real Life church in 2021 is **impact.**

*Lord, have impact in my inner self.*

*Lord, have impact in my trust in you and obey your leading.*

*Lord, have impact in the words of life and hope you give me.*

*Lord, have impact in my family.*

*Lord, have impact in our community.*

*Amen.*

God has prepared us to be His light and life and to be an impact everywhere. Let the impact begin now!

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