

In Chains . . .

We are offering a series of reflections for individuals and churches who may be finding it difficult to provide midweek prayer and shared learning from Scripture. You can use these by watching the YouTube video, reading the relevant Bible passage and then reflecting on the questions below. To help make this a shared activity, you are encouraged to reflect on this together with friends using an online conference package, or simply arrange with a friend for them to watch it too. Then ring each other up, share what your thoughts and responses and then pray for one another, and pray together for our world.

Read Philippians 1:3-15

Watch the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/6UKvC43q3Y4>

Now spend some time reflecting on the words from Paul's letter:

How is God continuing the good work that he has begun? What are the things and who are the people that I've invested in that might be bearing fruit even now? Who has invested in me – what opportunities might that present me to do good in the present circumstances? And how can I begin to sense where God may have been at work through present circumstances – how can we find and celebrate and sustain the good things that God might have been doing?

What are the relationships that you can invest in? Who are the people that matter to you? Who do you matter to? Whatever circumstances you find yourself in, remember that you matter to God – spend time allowing that truth to take root within you.

How can I pray? How can you pray for others? How can you pray for myself? How can you help others to pray for you? And how can they help you to pray for them. Perhaps use the three elements that we find in the prayer of Paul:

Pray for God's love to abound

Pray for wisdom and discernment

Pray for strength in doing the right thing.

PRAYER

Ever present God, we thank you that even if we are isolation, we are never alone. For you are with us in every circumstance, every place, every emotion, every hope and every fear. Even though our familiar routines may have come to a halt, remind us that your Spirit is forever active. Grant us the wisdom and courage to seek out those situations where you are at work and be open to embrace the new possibilities that this reveals. Join our hearts with those in whose lives you are also working and help us to support each other through this unfamiliar journey. May your love abound in all of our lives; may your wisdom guide us to the pathways of your purpose and your presence among us bear the fruits of righteousness. Be glorified in us we pray. AMEN