

PRISON LETTERS
A Four-Part Film Series
Inspired by Paul's letters to the early church

Episode 1 - "VITAL SIGNS"

INTRODUCTION

This is the story of Frances, an elderly woman sick in the hospital, yet filled with life and committed to sharing her faith with those around her. She's a type of Paul, excited to one day be with Jesus in Heaven, but knows there's work still to be done on earth. This episode challenges believers to always be a witness of God's love despite your circumstances and personal hardships. Whose life are you impacting even in difficult days?

Key Verse:

Philippians 1:21, *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."* NAS

WATCH EPISODE #1

DISCUSSION:

Read Philippians Chapter 1

- How is Frances a type of Paul?

- How do we as believers bear witness of Christ in our own trials?

- How can we better share testimonies of our victories in Christ?

- What can you do better to remain sensitive to others who are hurting?

- How does your choice to give up or keep going effect those who are closest to you?

- What do we learn from Paul's vulnerability in Philippians Chapter 1?

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Episode 2 - "BLACK SHEEP"

INTRODUCTION

This episode tells the story of a young dancer, Annabelle, who struggles with loneliness, anxiety and bullying. It's not until she meets her neighbor that she experiences kindness and hope to fulfill her purpose and reach her full potential. Looking out for the interest of others is important in church community. It cultivates relationships and connection that reflects the love of Jesus. How do we develop this mindset towards our neighbors and as a body of believers in Christ?

KEY VERSE:

Philippians 2:3 *"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves"* NAS

WATCH EPISODE #2

DISCUSSION:

Read Philippians Chapter 2

- How do we better look out for the interests of others according to Philippians chapter 2?

- How do we genuinely see others more significant than ourselves?

- How can we better address the growing problem of fear and anxiety in the younger generation?

- How can we be more intentional creating ways to bless others?

- Can we do better to address the issue of bullying and shaming?

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Episode 3 – “SKIN-DEEP CONFIDENCE”

INTRODUCTION:

The apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 3 to “beware of the dogs”. This is the story of Jason Briggs, a motivational speaker, who is climbing the ladder of success. But, his life is spiraling out of control. It’s not until Jason Briggs loses everything that he realizes it’s only the upward prize that’s worth chasing in this life. How much of your focus is on chasing the temporal things in life as opposed to pursuing the righteousness of God?

KEY VERSE:

Philippians 3:13-14 *“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* NAS

WATCH EPISODE #3

DISCUSSION:

Read Philippians Chapter 3

- How does the story of Jason Briggs’ give us an understanding of Paul’s warning about the dogs?

- What “barking dogs” should we beware of in our own lives that we have relied on rather than relying on God?

- How do we create healthy boundaries in our pursuits here on earth?

- How do we chase the upward prize in our everyday life?

- Is there anything that you need to let it go of?

- At what point in the story does Jason Briggs' become a type of Paul?

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Episode 4 – “MARATHON”

INTRODUCTION:

Carla is a runner whose dream is to run the marathon like her grandfather. Her dream is shattered after a terrible accident. In an extraordinary way, God reveals the key to finding strength in Him which ultimately lifts her up beyond her natural ability. There are things that happen in life causing you to feel like your goal is not obtainable. What are some things that we hope to achieve, but requires complete faith and strength in Christ Jesus?

KEY VERSE:

Philippians 4:13, *“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”* NASB

WATCH EPISODE #4

DISCUSSION:

Read Philippians Chapter 4

- How does *“the peace that surpasses all understanding”* factor in when we are facing various trials?

- How should we react when the goals we set in life are not achieved?

- Is there a trial in your life that you are facing, and how can you apply verse 13?

- Discussion: God’s desire is to reveal Himself in difficult times. Can you recall any times in your past where you knew and experienced a visitation from God in your darkest time?

- Verse 13, *“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me”*. What is the “all” that Paul is talking about in this scripture verse?

- Is there someone you know going through their darkest hour? How can you be an encouragement to them? Read verse 16.

- How do we overcome the anxious feelings that we face in our situation? Paul sites three things that we need to do in verse 6.

- After doing these 3 things what is the promise of God? Verse 7.

- Read verse 9. What are things in your past that you can remember to help you to overcome current challenges?

- In our challenges how can we do as Paul says in verse 4 while facing trials?
