

Create



✓ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✓ Breath of God

Ask someone to read **Philippians 1:21-30**. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: Paul is very honest in expressing his internal struggle about what he wants for his life. The isolation, fear, and despair he felt while imprisoned caused him to dream beyond the walls of his cell. He might have been locked in, but his voice was not. His letters were filled with encouraging words to the church at Philippi.

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing, Visual, or Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✓ Create — Writing

Write a letter from inside a lonely prison cell. Put yourself in Paul's shoes and envision that you are imprisoned and facing punishment, maybe even death, for your religious beliefs. Would you stand firm in your faith and tell others to do the same or would you write to your friends a different message? What would you say about your God? What would you encourage your friends to do? Would you lose hope? If not, what would inspire you to press on?

Write a series of tweets (140 characters) pertaining to your "Christian" stance on a number of hot topic issues. Discuss your stance and the reasons behind them with a partner. Engage in a healthy debate concerning the pro's and con's of supporting each issue.

✓ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Most people who are imprisoned only have access to minimal resources. Create a piece of art using only a pencil and a sheet of white paper. Imagine if you were locked away in a lonely cell what dreams for yourself would slowly slip away. Create an image that depicts your dreams for your future.

✓ Create — Outside the Box

Using the excerpt from Philippians 1:21a, "Living is Christ" as the theme, create a piece of art using a variety of materials that embodies that theme. Before starting in on your art, write a free verse poem with the repeating stanza, "Living is Christ." Then, include the words of the poem in your visual art in a creative way.

✓ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

✓ Close

Offer a prayer asking God to join you every step of your journey.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place).

By Carra Hughes Greer

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