I. Prayer

II. Opening Questions
   a. When have you been faced with seemingly insurmountable problems, and seen God work good out of them? How did the experience(s) affect your faith?

III. Read N.T. Wright Commentary p.87-90

IV. Scan Aesthetic Commentary p.39-47

V. Discussion Questions
   a. If you were to identify a “bold witness to Jesus Christ” among your friends and acquaintances, who comes to mind? What about this person shapes their witness?
   b. How has the faith and witness of this person impacted you or changed your life?
   c. How much of this person’s faith is expressed verbally, and how much is communicated in other ways? In what other ways have you experienced their faith?
   d. Francis of Assisi is attributed with saying, “Always preach the gospel—use words if you must.” What does this say to you about proclaiming Christ in your life?
   e. Have your plans and intentions “redirected” by God? What was the outcome?
   f. Is there a part of your life that, if God were to suddenly change it, would cause you to question God’s will and God’s purpose?
   g. How would you describe Paul’s mood throughout this passage?
   h. In what ways had Paul’s imprisonment helped the gospel on its way (vv. 12-14)?
   i. Consider Paul’s response to the insincere teachers (v. 18). How can we apply the spirit of his response to those who talk about Jesus today, even for the wrong reasons?
   j. How were the Philippians likely to feel knowing that Paul was in prison in Ephesus?
   k. How would his words here comfort and encourage them?