

PHILIPPIANS

In this devotional you will be studying Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. He wrote this letter while he was in prison. Each week will focus on one chapter, and each day you will read that chapter and observe, interpret, and apply different pieces. Make sure to read the directions of what to mark or underline in the text and to spend time each day praying through what you are learning. You can use your own Bible, or mark the text in the back of this study.

We hope you enjoy digging into God's Word through this study! Feel free to email us if you want more clarification or to discuss any part!

WEEK 1 • DAY 1

Read **Philippians 1** (You will find the text on page 26)

Read **Acts 16** where Paul goes to the Philippians.

1. What do you learn about the people who are saved? Write it down.

2. Is there anything from Philippians 1 that ties in with Acts 16? How can you see Paul's heart for the Philippians in his letter?

3. Why did Paul write this letter?

4. How are you encouraged by reading this letter?

WEEK 1 • DAY 2

Read **Philippians 1**

1. While reading Philippians 1 make a 'cross' symbol on each reference to Jesus. Draw a box around references to God the Father.
2. Make a list of what you learned about Jesus and what you learned about the Father.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. What did you learn about Salvation? Who is responsible for it?

4. How do you preach Christ? Why would you tell people about Jesus? Do you tell people about Jesus? Why or why not?

5. Why does Paul say it is better to depart and be with Christ? What does death mean for a Christian?

6. Did you see in verse 8 how Paul yearns for the Philippians with the affection of Jesus Christ? Read Romans 1:8-15 where Paul says a similar thing to the Romans. Why does he love these people so much? In what ways does he show his love?

Week 1 • Day 3

Read Philippians 1

1. While reading Philippians 1 mark with an arrow (\longrightarrow) all the actions Paul is doing, and an arrow (\longleftarrow) for what the Philippians did.
2. Write down in one column all the actions that Paul is doing and the other column all the actions the Philippians are doing.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. What does Paul appreciate about the Philippians? What does this show you about how a church should act?

4. What do you notice in Paul's actions? How does he act as a Christian? How can we apply his actions to our own as Christians?

Week 1 • Day 4

Read Philippians 1

1. Mark Gospel, proclaimed/speak/preach with a triangle. Mark prayer with a bubble.
2. What do you learn about the Gospel from what you marked? Write it down.

3. What does Paul mean by the term “Gospel”? Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Can you explain in your own words what the Gospel is?

4. What do you learn about proclaiming/speaking and preaching as a Christian? How are we to speak about Christ?

Week 1 • Day 5

Read Philippians 1

1. In verse 9-11 what is Paul's prayer for the Philippians? In what ways does he want them to grow?

2. What is the "fruit of righteousness"? Read Galatians 5. Write down all the fruit of the Spirit.

3. How is Paul's command in verse 27-30 connected to his prayer for the Philippian church?

4. In what ways would they have been encouraged by the example of Paul?

Week 2 • Day 1

Read Philippians 2 (You will find the text on page 28)

1. Mark references to God and Jesus as you did in Chapter 1.

2. List what you learn about God and Jesus.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Read verses 6-11 again and then read Colossians 1:15-20.

4. What do these passages teach you about the character of Jesus and his relationship to the Father and his relationship to every other created thing?

5. How should this affect the way you worship Jesus?

Week 2 • Day 2

Read Philippians 2

1. Mark references to Timothy (including pronouns) with one colour and Epaphroditus (including pronouns) with another colour.
2. What does Paul say about them? List how they are described.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. What do their actions teach us about how we should act as Christians? What can you apply to your life?

4. What motivated these two men? What motivates you? Does that need to change?

Week 2 • Day 3

Read Philippians 2

1. Underline every time Paul mentions the Philippians, including you/your/yourselves/beloved.
2. Mark with a ✕ every time Paul says something you should not do and a ✓ when Paul says something you should do. You might want to use a different color.
3. List what Paul tells the Philippians to do:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. Which of these areas do you struggle in doing?

5. What would Paul say to you if he saw your life?

Week 2 • Day 4

Read Philippians 2

1. Find all of the places Paul uses imagery/metaphors/similes. These are illustrations that Paul uses to paint a picture in your head! Briefly write down the ones that Paul uses.

2. Why are illustrations helpful? Can you think of any illustrations you would use to explain anything in this text? If so write them down.

Week 2 • Day 5

Read Philippians 2

1. Choose a couple verses that have stuck out to you as you studied and rewrite them below.

2. Now choose one or more of the following activities to really commit Paul's words to heart:

- a. Rewrite the verses in your own words, explaining any concepts as you would as if you were teaching a friend or a child.
- b. Use these verses to compose a personal prayer and pray for family, friends, and your own spiritual walk.
- c. Write a poem or a song based on what you have learned from these verses.

Week 3 • Day 1

Read Philippians 3 (You will find the text on page 30)

1. Mark God and Jesus as you did in Chapter 1 and 2. Also, mark Holy Spirit with a nice little cloud.

2. List what you learn about God, Jesus, and the Spirit.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. What do you think is the main emphasis/point of this chapter? Summarize it in a few sentences.

Week 3 • Day 2

Read Philippians 3

1. Highlight the 'Brothers' statements.
2. What does it mean to be called brothers/sisters?

3. Summarize the point of each of the "brothers" statements. What can you learn from these passages?

4. Read Hebrews 2:10-11. Jesus calls believers brothers/sisters! What does this tell you about your relationship to Him?

Week 3 • Day 3

Read Philippians 3

1. Who are you to watch out for? What are the warnings? Why?

2. Read Galatians 3:1-5. Circle “Spirit” and “faith” and underline “works of the law” and “flesh”.

3. What is the problem Paul is addressing with the Galatians and how is it connected to the warning to the Philippians?

4. Finally read Galatians 5:5-6 and take some time to pray and praise God for faith that gives you hope of righteousness.

Week 3 • Day 4

Read Philippians 3

1. Underline “confidence in the flesh”.
2. Look at verses 4-6 and list the “credentials” Paul has in the flesh.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. What might be ways that you have “confidence in the flesh”?

4. List the things Paul counts as “loss” and the things he counts as “gain”.

5. What is the difference between righteousness that comes from the law and righteousness that comes from Christ?

6. Do you need to realign your priorities and where you place your confidence?

Week 3 • Day 5

Read Philippians 3 (You will find the text on page 31)

1. In verse 17 Paul says to imitate him. What kinds of things do we know about Paul from this chapter that would be good to imitate? (Also read Philippians 4:9 and add details from this chapter.)

2. In verses, 18-20 two types of people are described. What is the end for “enemies of the cross”? What are the promises for believers?

3. Do you take time to think about your future with Jesus? What are some things you look forward to when you think about heaven?

Week 4 • Day 1

Read Philippians 4

1. Mark God and Jesus.
2. List what you learn about God and Jesus.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. How would you summarize the main point(s) of this chapter?

Week 4 • Day 2

Read Philippians 4

1. Mark the 'Brother' statements. Also mark the recipients (all the "you"s).
2. Mark all the people that Paul mentions; list their names and what you learn about them.

3. What do you learn about the Philippian brothers/sisters from this chapter?

4. Read verses 4-9 and mark the word “peace”. How is peace described and how do you get it?

5. Read John 14:25-31 and John 16:33. What do these passages teach you about peace?

Week 4 • Day 3

Read Philippians 4

1. Draw a box around all the times Paul says 'rejoice'. Why does Paul command the Philippians to rejoice? Why does Paul rejoice?

2. Read through the text and find the promises Paul affirms are true for the Philippians, underline them and record them below. Are these promises just for the Philippians or are they for you too? In what ways?

Week 4 • Day 4

Read Philippians 4

1. Mark Gospel. What do you learn about it?

2. Philippians 4:13 is a popular verse. What does the context (the verses surrounding the verse) tell you about the meaning of it?

3. Paul also wrote the letters to the Corinthians. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What determines your level of contentment? What do you rely on for strength? Spend some time thinking about God's grace - is it truly sufficient for you?

Week 4 • Day 5

Read Philippians 4

1. What commands does Paul give? List them below:

2. Which ones are hard for you to do? Put a star beside those ones. Spend some time praying to the God who can give you strength to do all things — that He would help you to live for Him and walk like Jesus.

3. How would you summarize this whole letter if you were telling a friend about it? Now go share what you learned.

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Philippians 2 *New International Version (NIV)*

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. So then, welcome him in the Lord with great

joy, and honor people like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

Philippians 3 *New International Version (NIV)*

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 4 *New International Version (NIV)*

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion,

help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. I

have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.



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