



PHILIPPIANS

CELEBRATION
SMALL GROUPS

**HOW TO
STUDY
THE
BIBLE:
ENGAGING WITH
PHILIPPIANS**

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Celebration Church
601 Westinghouse Rd
Georgetown TX 78626
United States
Celebration.church

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PROLOGUE

This 8-week series will teach us to engage with the Bible and engage with weekly passage studies throughout Paul's epistle of Philippians.

Each week we will engage with a passage of scripture in the following ways:

- Live or Video teaching
- Homework: including Reading the passage, writing the main thought of the passage, reflecting on that passage and memorizing scripture
- Reflect on the practical and spiritual application of the Word to our lives.

LEADER NOTES

SESSION PLANS

A session plan is simply a road map to guide your time with your group. The Philipians Leaders Guide has a session plan prepared for you.

REVIEW

Every week you will begin your session with reviewing the passage of scripture everyone will read during the week, homework, and memory verse. Encourage and celebrate everyone's note taking and bible memorization.

DISCUSSION

Questions for discussion are primarily based on the text and are strategic for discussion. There will be 4 types of questions every week

LAUNCHING QUESTION - starts up conversation, no right or wrong answers

UNDERSTANDING QUESTION - helps you to see if what was taught was understood

SHARING QUESTION - allow for group members to open up about their experiences

APPLICATION QUESTION - helps group members to apply what they've learned

HOMEWORK

The objective of weekly assignments is to encourage independent Bible Study. Every week, they are asked to:

READ the selected passage

WRITE what was the main thought

REFLECT and ask themselves practical and spiritual application questions as well as **PRAY**

MEMORIZE a verse from the passage

MEMORY VERSES

Memorizing scripture

- Renews our minds and transforms our life
- Helps against temptation
- Helps us live in obedience
- Allows us to be ready to encourage others
- Gives us an understanding of God and His will

Encourage group members to memorize verses by writing verses on post-its and placing them in areas they frequently visit around the house, like the fridge or computer. Encourage them to read them every day until memorized.

RESOURCES

Additional pages are included in the Leader's Guide for distribution. We recommend you distribute the homework template to everyone. Distribute the charts and questions for deeper study to those who would like go into a deeper study.

WEEK 1: SG LEADER GUIDE

SESSION PLAN

1. Icebreaker
2. Video
3. Discussion
4. Closing: Main take away / Prayer
5. Homework

ICE BREAKER (15 MIN)

Introduce yourself and then go around the room and ask everyone to share their name and a little about themselves.

Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO (10-15 MIN)

Introduction to Bible Study - Pastor Lori Champion

DISCUSSION (30 MIN)

- What are some reasons people have trouble reading or studying the Bible?
- Based on what we heard in today's message, why is it important for us to read God's Word?
- Share your experience with Bible reading/study. What are you most excited about in this study?
- What will you need to do in order to set aside time in your day/week for Bible reading/study?

CLOSING & PRAYER (10 MIN)

Close with the following scripture and remind everyone how God's Word sheds light over every area in our lives. As we set time aside this week to read the Bible, let's remember to invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us and to shed light over the areas of our lives that need aligning, correction, and reminding.

- *Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*
- Pray with the group for the upcoming weeks of Bible Study together

HOMEWORK

- * **Read** Philippians 1:1-11
- * **Write** out the main thought of the passage.
- * **Reflect** on the passage and ask yourself the application questions
- * **Memorize** Philippians 1:6 NASB

WEEK 2: SG LEADER GUIDE

SESSION PLAN

1. Welcome & Review
2. Video
3. Discussion
4. Closing: Main take away / Prayer
5. Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW (10 MIN)

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with the week's passage Philippians 1:1-11. Include the following questions:

- What was the main thought of this week's assigned passage in Philippians?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory.

Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO (10-15 MIN)

The Context, Philippians 1:1-11 - Pastor Riis

DISCUSSION (30 MIN)

What do you observe about Paul's feelings toward those in Philippi?

According to Paul's encouragement in Phil. 1:6, what can we be sure of? How does that encourage you today?

What are some things you learned in Paul's prayer for the Philippians?

Share a time when someone encouraged you with God's Word, prayed for you, and how it impacted you.

Share with the group what application stood out to you most while reading this week. Share what the Holy Spirit spoke to you about it personally and how you will apply what you learned.

CLOSING & PRAYER (10 MIN)

Close with the following scripture and remind everyone how Paul began his letter to the Philippians with gratitude, encouragement and prayer. Let's leave today with the encouragement of this verse:

He who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:6

Pray with the group.

HOMEWORK

- * **Read** Philippians 1:12- 30
- * **Write** out the main thought of the passage.
- * **Reflect** on the passage and ask yourself the application questions
- * **Memorize** Philippians 1:21-22 NASB or 1:27 NASB

WEEK 3: SG LEADER GUIDE

SESSION PLAN

1. Welcome & Review
2. Video
3. Discussion
4. Closing: Main take away / Prayer
5. Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW (10 MIN)

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with the week's passage Philippians 1:12-30. Include the following questions:

- What was the main thought of this week's assigned passage in Philippians?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory.

Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO (10-15 MIN)

The Gospel, Philippians 1:12-30 - Ps Celeste

DISCUSSION (30 MIN)

Why is it vital to share the good news of the gospel with others, even when you're in the midst of a difficult situation?

What was Paul's perspective in sharing the gospel anytime, anywhere, and by anyone?

Share a time when you shared your testimony of how you got saved and the impact it had on someone.

Share with the group what application stood out to you most while reading this week. Share what the Holy Spirit spoke to you about it personally and how you will apply what you learned.

CLOSING & PRAYER (10 MIN)

Close with the following scripture and remind everyone that for us to live is Christ (His purposes) and to die is gain (we'll be in His presence). While we're alive we live to be examples of the grace and goodness of God.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Philippians 1:21-22

Pray with the group

HOMEWORK

- * **Read** Philippians 2:1- 11
- * **Write** out the main thought of the passage.
- * **Reflect** on the passage and ask yourself the application questions
- * **Memorize** Philippians 2:3-4 NASB

WEEK 4: SG LEADER GUIDE

SESSION PLAN

1. Welcome & Review
2. Video
3. Discussion
4. Closing: Main take away / Prayer
5. Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW (10 MIN)

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with the week's passage Philippians 2:1-11. Include the following questions:

- What was the main thought of this week's assigned passage in Philippians?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory.

Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO (10-15 MIN)

Humility, Philippians 2:1-11 - Zion Montgomery

DISCUSSION (30 MIN)

How is Paul's message of putting others first different from what the world teaches us. Give examples of ways the world infiltrates us to think this way.

Look at verses 5 - 11, What did Christ do in order to become man? What attitude was necessary for His obedience?

What are your thoughts of God's response to Christ's humility and obedience in verses 9-11

Share with the group what application stood out to you most while reading this week. Share what the Holy Spirit spoke to you about it personally and how you will apply what you learned.

CLOSING & PRAYER (10 MIN)

Close with the following scripture and remind everyone how this passage of scripture instructs us to have the same attitude that was in Christ Jesus. When we put others first, Christ is exalted.

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Phil 2:3-4

Pray with the group

HOMEWORK

- * **Read** Philippians 2:12- 30
- * **Write** out the main thought of the passage.
- * **Reflect** on the passage and ask yourself the application questions
- * **Memorize** Philippians 2:12 or 2:13-14 NASB

WEEK 5: SG LEADER GUIDE

SESSION PLAN

1. Welcome & Review
2. Video
3. Discussion
4. Closing: Main take away / Prayer
5. Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW (10 MIN)

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with the week's passage Philippians 2:12-30. Include the following questions:

- What was the main thought of this week's assigned passage in Philippians?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory.

Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO (10-15 MIN)

Attitude of Serving, Philippians 2:12-30

DISCUSSION (30 MIN)

Why should believers be an example of Christ? What impact does it have on others?

Based on v 13 Who is at work in us? To do what? Why? How does this verse encourage you?

Timothy and Epaphroditus were living examples of an attitude of Christ. What qualities of these men stood out to you most? Why?

Share with the group what application stood out to you most while reading this week. Share what the Holy Spirit spoke to you about it personally and how you will apply what you learned.

CLOSING & PRAYER (10 MIN)

Close with the following scripture and remind everyone about having the attitude of serving like Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus. We are to work out what God works in us. Encourage everyone that God is at work in us both to will and to work for His good pleasure!

for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Phil 2:13

Pray with the group

HOMEWORK

- * **Read** Philippians 3:1- 11
- * **Write** out the main thought of the passage.
- * **Reflect** on the passage and ask yourself the application questions
- * **Memorize** Philippians 3:7, 8 or 3:10 NASB

WEEK 6: SG LEADER GUIDE

SESSION PLAN

1. Welcome & Review
2. Video
3. Discussion
4. Closing: Main take away / Prayer
5. Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW (10 MIN)

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with the week's passage Philippians 3:1-11. Include the following questions:

- What was the main thought of this week's assigned passage in Philippians?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory.

Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO (10-15 MIN)

Confidence in Christ, Philippians 3:1-11 - Barbie Acevedo

DISCUSSION (30 MIN)

Why do we naturally put confidence in what we've accomplished and what do we expect in return?

What can we learn from Paul's determination to know Christ?

Share a time when you put your confidence in what you accomplished for God in place of your relationship with Him. What was the outcome? What did you learn?

Share with the group what application stood out to you most while reading this week. Share what the Holy Spirit spoke to you about it personally and how you will apply what you learned.

CLOSING & PRAYER (10 MIN)

Close with the following scripture and remind everyone that Paul's confidence was not in anything he had done for God. Rather, his confidence was that he was known by God. Paul's determined purpose was that he may **know** Christ more.

I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, Phil. 3:8

Pray with the group

HOMEWORK

- * **Read** Philippians 3:12-27
- * **Write** out the main thought of the passage.
- * **Reflect** on the passage and ask yourself the application questions
- * **Memorize** Philippians 3:12 or 3:13-14 NASB

WEEK 7: SG LEADER GUIDE

SESSION PLAN

1. Welcome & Review
2. Video
3. Discussion
4. Closing: Main take away / Prayer
5. Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW (10 MIN)

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with the week's passage Philippians 3:12-21. Include the following questions:

- What was the main thought of this week's assigned passage in Philippians?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory.

Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO (10-15 MIN)

An Eternal Perspective, Philippians 3:12-21 - Ps Jim Kuykendall

DISCUSSION (30 MIN)

Why is it easy for us to stay stuck in past successes or past failures?

According to the passage we read this week, what was Paul's goal and what would it take to reach it?

Share what you have had to let go of in order to know Him more. How has having an eternal perspective helped you let go of the past and move forward?

Share with the group what application stood out to you most while reading this week. Share what the Holy Spirit spoke to you about it personally and how you will apply what you learned.

CLOSING & PRAYER (10 MIN)

Close with the following scripture and remind everyone of forgetting the past, reaching for what lies ahead for them in Christ and pressing on towards knowing Him.

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. Phil 3:13

Pray with the group

HOMEWORK

- * **Read** Philippians 4
- * **Write** out the main thought of the passage.
- * **Reflect** on the passage and ask yourself the application questions
- * **Memorize** one of these verses Philippians 4:6-7, 4:11, 4:13 or 4:19 NASB

WEEK 8: SG LEADER GUIDE

SESSION PLAN

1. Welcome & Review
2. Video
3. Discussion
4. Closing: Main take away / Prayer

WELCOME & REVIEW (10 MIN)

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with the week's passage Philippians 4. Include the following questions:

- What was the main thought of this week's assigned passage in Philippians?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory.

Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO (10-15 MIN)

Rejoice and Remain, Philippians 4 - Pastor Avery Montgomery

DISCUSSION (30MIN)

What are some things people become anxious about?

According to Philippians chapter 4, what are some ways we keep from becoming anxious, and remain content?

Share a time when you were losing your peace over a situation and how the Word of God helped you?

Share with the group what application stood out to you most while reading this week. Share what the Holy Spirit spoke to you about it personally and how you will apply what you learned.

CLOSING & PRAYER (10 MIN)

Close with the following scripture and remind everyone to be anxious for nothing , pray about everything, and be thankful for anything. Also celebrate that they've completed the book of Philippians and encourage them to continue to read other books of the Bible on their own in the same way!

I can do all things [i]through Him who strengthens me. Phil 4:13



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HOMework

1. READ

Each week we will read a selected passage. Read through it in NASB, our translation from which we will share the passage and memorize scripture.

Read in a way that ignores chapter divisions and allows space and time to reflect on keywords, verses, themes, emotions, and major people.

2. WRITE

Write what you noticed as the MAIN THOUGHT from the selected passage. What was Paul saying? What was he encouraging or challenging the church with?

3. REFLECT & PRAY

The word of God is ALIVE & ACTIVE (Hebrews 4:12). Invite the Holy Spirit into your reading and reflection. Allow Him space and time to speak to you. As you read, there will be both practical and spiritual applications.

PRACTICAL: As you read, consider the following questions:

- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a condition to meet? *"If you..., then..."*
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a verse to memorize?

SPIRITUAL: As you read, consider the following questions:

- What do you learn about God?
- What did you feel the Holy Spirit saying to you?
- In what ways do you feel stirred to change or correct your behavior?

PRAYER: Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you and to empower you to live out what you've read.

4. MEMORIZE

Each week we will have offer a verse to memorize. Committing scripture to memory gives us a storehouse of wisdom and faith to fight our daily battles. FAITH comes from hearing, and hearing comes from the Word of God (Romans 10:17 NASB).

CHARTS FOR CONTEXT (*SEE FOLLOWING PAGES)

* **AT A GLANCE CHART**

As you read each passage in Philippians, you will gather information about the historical setting, keywords, chapter themes, and the overall purpose of the letter. As you learn about these, fill in the Philippians AT A GLANCE CHART

* **AUTHOR & RECIPIENT CHART**

Since Philippians is a letter, learning about the author and the recipients is key to context. As you read the passages, note what the author (Paul) says about himself and what he says about the recipients (Philippians). Write them down in the Author & Recipient chart provided.

* **KEYWORD CHART**

The words *rejoice/joy*, *mind/attitude* are used throughout Philippians and are keywords. As you read each passage, mark these words. List them in the KEYWORD chart provided and note what is said regarding these words in relation to Christ.

* **GOING DEEPER**

Answer questions for deeper study into the passage

PHILIPPIANS AT A GLANCE:

DATE:	
KEY WORDS:	
PURPOSE:	
HISTORICAL SETTING:	
OVERALL THEME:	

CHAPTER	THEME(S)
1	
2	
3	
4	

THE AUTHOR AND RECIPIENT CHART

Since Philippians is a letter, learning about the author and the recipients is key to context. As you read the passages, note what the author (Paul) says about himself and what he says about the recipients (Philippians). Write them down in the Author & Recipient chart provided.

CHAPTER	WHAT IS HE SAYING ABOUT HIMSELF?	WHAT IS HE SAYING ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS?
1		
2		
3		
4		

KEYWORDS IN PHILIPPIANS

The words *rejoice/joy*, *mind/attitude* are used throughout Philippians and are keywords. As you read each passage, mark these words. List them in the KEYWORD chart provided and note what is said regarding these words in relation to Christ.

CHAPTER	JOY/REJOICE	MIND/ATTITUDE
1		
2		
3		
4		

GOING DEEPER

WEEK 1

Read Acts 15:36 through Acts 17:1 and answer the following questions.

1. How did Paul and Timothy become acquainted with each other?
2. How did they become acquainted with the Philippians?
3. Why did they go to Philippi?
4. Record the significant things that you have learned about Philippi and the visit there.

WEEK 2

Paul refers to himself as a bond-servant of our Lord. Read Deuteronomy 15:12-18. Write down all you learn about being a bond-servant, then answer the following questions.

1. Why would someone want to be a bond-servant?
2. Read the following scriptures and see how they can be cross-referenced with Deut. 15:12-18 and with the term bond-servant. Write down the points of similarity

(A) 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

(B) Galatians 1:10

WEEK 3

Paul writes about “suffering for His sake” in Philippians 1:29. Read the following passages of Scriptures and write down any insights you gain about suffering.

(A) Matthew 5:10-12

(B) John 15:18-21

(C) Romans 5:1-5

(D) Romans 8:16-18

(E) 2 Corinthians 1:7, 4:8-18

(F) 1 Thessalonians 3:2-4

(G) 2 Timothy 3:10-12

(H) Hebrews 10:32-36

WEEK 4

Write out step by step how Christ humbled himself and then write how He was exalted.

HUMILIATION PHIL 2:6-8	EXALTATION PHIL 2:9-11

What do you learn about Christ's example of humility?

WEEK 5

List what you have learned about the following qualities of the attitude of Christ. Then list the qualities of Timothy, Epaphroditus, and Paul so you can note the parallels.

Description of the attitude of Christ Phil 2:5-8	Timothy Phil 2:19-24	Epaphroditus Phil 2:25-30	Paul

WEEK 6

In Philippians 3:2-3 Paul refers to the “false circumcision” and “true circumcision.” What was circumcision? What was its purpose?

- A. If you don't know what circumcision is, look it up.
- B. Genesis 17 contains the first mention of circumcision. Read this chapter and write everything you learn about circumcision.
- C. Circumcision was the sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham and his descendants. Read Genesis 15:6 and compare it to Romans 4:3-13. Answer the following questions
 1. What was Abraham's relationship with God when circumcision was instituted?
 2. What role did circumcision have?

WEEK 7

In Philippians 3:20 Paul writes that our citizenship is in heaven.

Look up the word citizen/citizenship and write out the definition.

With this definition in mind, how does that give you perspective of what you can believe God for?

WEEK 8

Let's cross reference Philippians 4:4-7. Look up each reference and explain the verse teaches you about any facet of anxiety.

Psalms 55:22

Isaiah 26:3

Isaiah 41:10

Isaiah 43:1-2

Matthew 6:24-34

Hebrews 13:5-6

1 Peter 5:6-7

In Philippians 4:8 Paul gives us a command, then in verse 9, there follows a wonderful promise. Read both verses and record on the following chart the promise and the conditions. Be specific

PROMISE	CONDITION