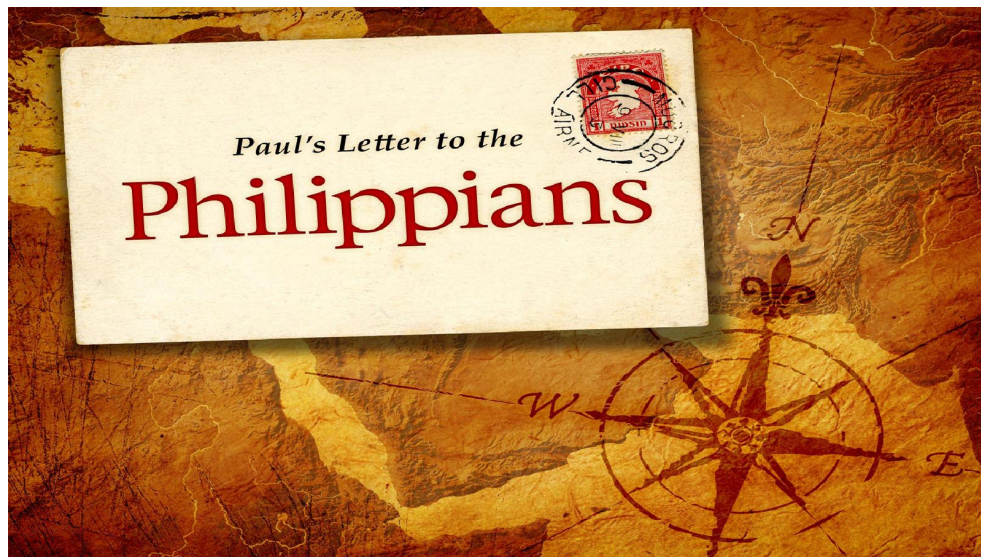


Philippians

JOURNAL



FAITHBIBLE
LAKE CHARLES

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4

Philippians is a wellspring of spiritual truths that has brought countless believers new joy and peace in their daily walk. You will find Philippians a beautiful and a profitable book. It contains many principles of life that will literally transform your attitude toward people and circumstances as you become a doer of those things which you are about to learn while we are studying this heartfelt letter from the Apostle Paul.

Introduction

Paul’s letter to the Philippians is no doubt one of the best loved of all his letters. Paul came to Philippi by way of a vision. On his second missionary journey he wanted to turn north to enter north central Asia (modern Turkey, biblical Bithynia). Instead, in a vision he saw a man of Macedonia (northern Greece) calling to him to come and help them (Acts 16:6–10). By this vision the Spirit directed Paul to Europe.

Paul later returned to Philippi on his third missionary journey (cf. Acts 20:1–3, 6). He had sent Silas and Timothy earlier (cf. Acts 19:19–24; Phil. 2:19–24).

These are some of the particularly significant features of this letter.

1. This is an intensely personal letter. It lacks formality. Paul seems to set down ideas as they come to him, and to do so with frequent outbursts of unrestrained emotion. The chief of these is the refrain of joy. “May you always be joyful in union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice!” (4:4) This is the keynote. The word “joy” in its verbal and noun forms appears sixteen times in the letter, proportionately more often than in any of Paul’s other letters. What is even more remarkable is that this repeated call for joy comes from a prison cell where threats of death are always present. This radiant faith and confidence can come only from one whose life is centered in Christ (1:21; 3:8) and who has learned the secret of being content at all times and under all circumstances (4:10 ff.).
2. Writing to close friends, Paul is free to allow his personal feelings to become known. He is even driven to tears because of his adversaries (4:18), and about these persons he does not hesitate to use harsh words. He speaks of certain Judaizing Christians as “dogs” and people “who do evil things ... men who insist on cutting the body” (3:2). Christians whose conduct brings disgrace to the name they bear he describes as “enemies of Christ’s death on the cross” and as people whose “bodily desires” are “their god” and who are bound “to end up in hell” (3:18–19). On the other hand, Paul is fond of using endearing terms when addressing his friends. They are always in his heart (1:7), the objects of his longing (1:8; 4:1), his “beloved” (2:12; 4:1), and his “joy and crown” (4:1).
3. Consistent with the general tone of the latter, great emphasis is placed on the corporate nature of the Christian community. This is clearly seen in the use of “you all” throughout the letter; of the word “participation” and its related forms (1:5, 7; 2:1; 3:10; 4:14, 16); of “in the Lord” (2:19, 24; 3:1; 4:1, 4, 10), “in Christ Jesus” (1:1, 26; 2:5; 3:3, 14; 4:7, 19, 21), “in Christ” (2:1); of phrases and compounds with the element “with” in Greek, for example,

“partakers” (1:7), “rejoice together” (2:17, 18), “fellow worker” (2:25; 4:3), “fellow soldier” (2:25), “of the same nature” (3:10), “fellow imitators” (3:17), “yokefellow” (4:3), “to fight together” (4:3), “fellow partaker” (4:14), “one common purpose,” “only one wish” (1:27), “having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind” (2:2), etc. For Paul, oneness in Christ demands oneness in mission and oneness in the community.

4. The letter is also rich in figurative expressions taken from everyday life; those taken from the athletic arena, such as “win the prize” (3:12), “run straight toward the goal to win the prize” (3:14), “to fight together” (4:3); those from commerce, for example, “profit” and “loss” (3:7, 8; 4:15), “account” (4:17), “receipt” (4:18); those from the battlefield, such as “progress” (1:12, 15), “stand firm together” (1:17), “the same conflict” (1:30), “win ... lose ... victory” (1:28); and those from the law court, for example, “defend and establish” (1:7, 16)
5. Finally, aside from repeated calls to “rejoice,” the letter also contains several great themes. Paul expresses his spiritual last “will and testament” as “to live is Christ” (1:21). He explains how he regards his earlier “privileges” as “garbage” as the result of knowing Christ (3:4–9) and how he goes on trying to win the prize (3:12–14). And, above all, there is the famous Christological (the study of the nature and person of Christ) hymn (2:5–11). This is, no doubt, one of the earliest Christian hymns, and certainly the most beautiful and moving one preserved in the New Testament. It is written in solemn liturgical style, has rhythm and parallelisms, and contains some rare words. It combines two great themes, humiliation and exaltation, and shines as a jewel among the early confessions of faith.

With the exception of the Christological hymn, which has some formal features, the letter as a whole is personal and informal in

structure. Paul moves from one topic to another without a precise and formal outline. Nevertheless, one can detect a general movement of thought. The general plan is as follows:

Outline of Philippians

- I. Salutation (1:1–2)
 1. The Writers (1:1a)
 2. The Readers (1:1b)
 3. The Greeting (1:2)
- II. Explanation of Paul's Concerns (1:3–2:30)
 1. Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer for the Philippians (1:3–11)
 - (1) Paul's Thanksgiving (1:3–8)
 - (2) Paul's Prayer for the Philippians (1:9–11)
 - Prayer for a Growing Love (1:9–10a)
 - The Nature of a Growing Love (1:9a)
 - The Environment of a Growing Love (1:9b)
 - The Result of a Growing Love (1:10a)
 - Prayer for Complete Character (1:10b–11)
 - The Nature of Complete Character (1:10b)
 - The Means to Complete Character (1:11a)
 - The Purpose of Complete Character (1:11b)
 2. Paul's Joy in the Progress of the Gospel (1:12–26)
 - (1) Paul's Circumstances (1:12–17)
 - Paul's Imprisonment (1:12)
 - Reactions to Paul's Imprisonment (1:13–17)
 - The Gospel Spread Among Roman Soldiers (1:13)
 - Christians Encouraged to Speak (1:14–17)
 - (2) Paul's Attitude (1:18–26)
 - Paul's Joy in Salvation (1:18–24)
 - Paul's Salvation and Hope (1:18b–20)
 - Paul's Commitment to the Philippians (1:21–24)
 - Paul's Confidence of Future Ministry (1:25–26)
 3. Exhortation to Christlike Character (1:27–2:18)
 - (1) A Unified Stand (1:27–30)

- The Nature of the Philippians' Stand (1:27–28)
- Christian Suffering (1:29–30)
 - The Nature of Christian Suffering (1:29)
 - The Pauline Model of Suffering (1:30)
- (2) A Unified Mind (2:1–4)
 - The Basis of Paul's Appeal to Unity (2:1)
 - The Essence of Unity (2:2a)
 - The Expression of Unity (2:2b–4)
- (3) The Example of Christ (2:5–11)
 - The Form of the Text
 - The Function of the Text
 - Analysis of the Text
 - The Introduction to the Hymn (2:5)
 - The Hymn to Christ (2:6–11)
- (4) The Command to Obedience (2:12–18)
 - Practical Christianity (2:12–13)
 - The Command to Work Out Their Salvation (2:12)
 - The Reason for Working Out Their Salvation (2:13)
 - Positive Steadfastness (2:14–16)
 - The Command to Stop Complaining (2:14)
 - The Purpose of the Command (2:15–16)
 - Personal Joy in Ministry (2:17–18)
- 4. Paul's Future Plans (2:19–30)
 - (1) Concerning Timothy (2:19–24)
 - The Sending of Timothy (2:19)
 - The Commendation of Timothy (2:20–22)
 - The Importance of Timothy (2:23–24)
 - (2) Concerning Epaphroditus (2:25–30)
 - The Commendation of Epaphroditus (2:25)
 - The Reason Paul Sent Epaphroditus (2:26–28)
 - The Command to Honor Epaphroditus (2:29–30)
- III. Exhortations to Christian Living (3:1–4:9)
 - 1. Exhortation to Avoid False Teachers (3:1–21)
 - (1) Paul's Experience Explained (3:1–16)
 - Apostolic Safeguard (3:1)

- True Circumcision (3:2–6)
 - Decrying the False (3:2)
 - Describing the True (3:3–6)
 - True Values (3:7–11)
 - Evaluation of Paul's Former Life (3:7–8)
 - Aspiration of the New Life (3:9–11)
 - True Zeal (3:12–16)
 - Paul's Desire to Fulfill His Call (3:12–14)
 - Paul's Encouragement to Other Believers (3:15–16)
 - (2) The False Teachers' Character Exposed (3:17–21)
 - Encouragement to Imitate Paul (3:17)
 - Characteristics of Paul's Opponents (3:18–19)
 - Characteristics of True Believers (3:20–21)
- 2. Miscellaneous Exhortations (4:1–9)
 - (1) Exhortation to Steadfastness (4:1)
 - The Address to the Readers
 - Exhortation
 - (2) Exhortation to Unity (4:2–3)
 - (3) Exhortation to Joy and Peace (4:4–9)
- IV. Expression of Thanks for the Philippians' Support (4:10–20)
 - 1. Paul's Situation (4:10–14)
 - (1) Appreciation (4:10)
 - (2) Contentment (4:11)
 - (3) Adaptability (4:12)
 - (4) Dependency (4:13)
 - (5) Blessing (4:14)
 - 2. Paul's Attitude Toward Those Who Gave (4:15–20)
 - (1) Commendations (4:15–17)
 - (2) Blessings (4:18–19)
 - (3) Doxology (4:20)
- V. Conclusion (4:21–23)

PURPOSE(S) OF THE LETTER

- A. To communicate Paul's thanksgiving to this loving church that helped him monetarily several times and even sent a helper, Epaphroditus (cf. 1:3–11; 2:19–30; 4:10–20). The letter also may have been written to explain Epaphroditus' early return home while Paul was still in prison.
- B. To encourage the Philippians concerning his circumstances. The gospel was actually progressing in prison. Paul was bound, but the gospel was unbound!
- C. To encourage the Philippians amidst the false teachings which were very similar to the Judaizers of Galatians. These heretics demanded that new converts become Jewish first and then Christian (cf. Acts 15).

However, because the list of sins in 3:19 fits the Greek false teachers (gnostics) more than the Jewish, the identity of the heretics is uncertain. It is possible that some believers had reverted back to their previous pagan lifestyle.

- D. To encourage the Philippian believers to joy even amidst internal and external persecution. Paul's joy was not dependent on circumstances but on his faith in Christ.

This joy amidst problems was not a Stoic resignation, but a Christian world-view and a constant struggle. Paul drew metaphors from several areas of life to communicate the tension of the Christian life.

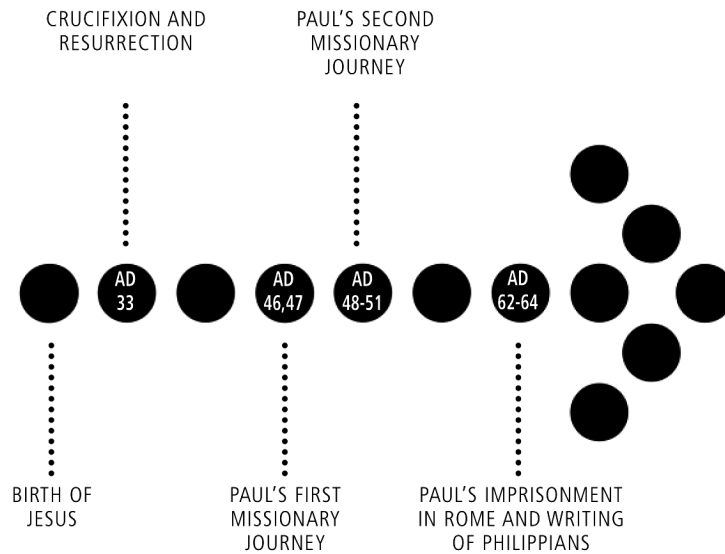
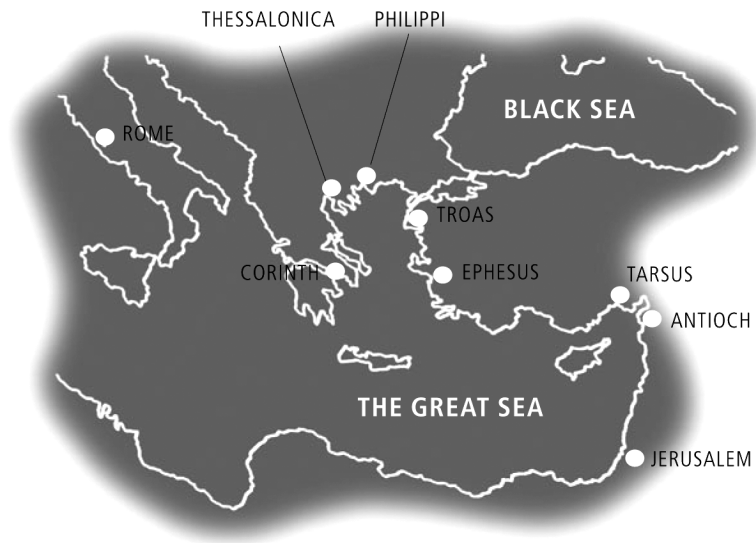
- 1. athletic (cf. 3:12, 14; 4:3);
- 2. military (cf. 1:7, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 28, 30);
- 3. commercial (cf. 3:7, 8; 4:15, 17, 18).

Overview

The city of Philippi was located very importantly in the north east of Greece and provided an excellent gateway for the gospel to be

taken from Asia Minor into the continent of Europe. Philippi was named after Philip of Macedon who had taken control of the settlement around 300 BC. In 168 BC, it was annexed by the Romans. Other battles followed over the next century or so, and the city gained particular prominence in 31 BC when, after the battle of Actium, it gained possession of the 'Italic right'. This meant that the colony (as it now was) enjoyed exactly the same rights as the Romans of Italy themselves did.

This Roman outpost proved to be a place of strategic importance for the apostle Paul in bringing the gospel of the grace of God to a much wider audience.



For Further Study

1. Read Acts 17:1–18:22. What other cities did Paul visit on his second missionary journey? What notable experiences did he have?
2. How many times do the words 'joy' and 'rejoice' appear in Philippians?

To think about and discuss

1. What are some situations that modern Christians encounter which make it difficult to rejoice?
2. Paul was occupied with the Lord while he was in prison. How can we occupy ourselves with God?
3. The church at Philippi was composed of a range of widely differing people, all of whom were in relationship with Christ. Does our church reflect such a range of differences?

Can you see opportunities for our church to demonstrate that, despite the differences of its members, we are all in fellowship with one another because of our relationship with the Head?

Week 1: Joy in the Midst of Problems

Philippians 1:1-2

We begin our study on the book of Philippians with the author, Paul in prison. While many of us would be complaining about our uncomfortable and inconvenient situation, Paul is caringly writing a letter of encouragement to a church he loved. And even more significant, the main theme of this letter is joy. Go figure.

I trust you are blessed and encouraged in your Christian walk as we study this great letter together.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:2

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Philippians 1:1-11
Tuesday	Philippians 1:12-26
Wednesday	Philippians 1:27-30
Thursday	Philippians 2:1-11
Friday	Philippians 2:12-18
Saturday	Philippians 2:19-24

[illegible]

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

2. Paul often referred to himself as a servant or bond-servant of our Lord. Doulos is the transliteration of the Greek word translated "bond-servant." The picture of a bond-servant is seen in Deuteronomy 15:12–18 when a person who had served six years as a slave decided to remain with his master. For a clearer understanding of all that is involved in being a bond-servant, read Deuteronomy 15:12–18.
 - a. Why would someone want to be a bond-servant?

 - b. How long was one to remain a bond-servant?

3. Saints
 - a. How does Philippians 1 describe saints?

 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 and note what you learn about saints.

4. Bishops/Elders/Overseers – Read the following verses and note what you learn about a bishop/elder/overseer

a. 1 Timothy 3:1-7

b. Acts 20:17, 28-30

c. 1 Peter 5:1-3

5. Deacons

a. Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and list the qualifications of a deacon.

b. Based on your study, are there differences between elders/overseers and deacons? If so, what are they?

6. What has the Spirit of God spoken to your heart through your study today? Write out personal applications using the personal pronoun “I.”

Family Discussion Questions

1. Timothy was like a son to the Apostle Paul. What are some ways Timothy might have helped Paul during their missionary journeys together?
2. The letter to the Philippian Christians is a very personal, friendly letter. Who could you encourage this week by writing them a note telling them what you like about them and what they mean to you?
3. The Book of Philippians makes a point to emphasize the “togetherness” of the local church. What are some of the benefits of doing things together, and/or going through hard things together?
4. What do you think it means to be a “servant of Jesus”?

Week 2: A Powerful Partnership

Philippians 1:3-5

Paul could not think of the Philippians without giving thanks to God for their fellowship in the gospel. Christian fellowship is a marvel. People who by nature have nothing in common find a common life in Christ. Think again of Paul's ministry in Philippi. Lydia the slave girl and the jailer had nothing in common until they came to Christ (Acts 16). But the gospel of Christ made them partakers of the same life and partners in the same cause.

This week look into the powerful partnership possible when we work together with fellow believers in the spread of the gospel. This was a very important concept for the Apostle Paul.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you," Philippians 1:3

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Philippians 2:25-30; 1 Corinthians 1:4
Tuesday	Philippians 3:1-16; Romans 1:8
Wednesday	Philippians 3:17-21; Colossians 1:3-8
Thursday	Philippians 4:1-9
Friday	Philippians 4:10-14
Saturday	Philippians 4:15-23

[illegible]

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. For what/whom are you thankful? List below.
3. Gratitude is uppermost in Paul's mind. This word "give thanks" *eucharisteo*, appears around 46 times in the writings of Paul. Why do you think Paul mentions his thankfulness so many times in his writings?
4. Dr. Bill Lawrence's quote, "Happiness is based on happenings, but joy comes from relationships" is so true. Why is this the case?
5. What makes Christian fellowship different from other forms of fellowship?

6. Why would the Philippian Christians' cooperation with Paul in spreading the gospel be so important to him?

Family Discussion Questions

1. What reasons did the Apostle Paul have to be so thankful?
2. Why do you think the Apostle Paul mentioned his thankfulness for other Christians so many times?
3. What are some benefits from working together with others to get a task or goal accomplished?
4. Why would it be important to support missionaries who are spreading the good news of Jesus?
5. Would it make you feel better/encourage you if someone else came along side you and helped you when you are going through a tough time? Why?

Week 3 – A Sure Guarantee

Philippians 1:6

Paul was sure about plenty things. But he tells us in this week's verse that he is absolutely sure of one thing. That is what God has begun in us, His is sure to bring to ultimate completion. In other words, our salvation and everything accompanying it.

For the Philippian believers, these words would have been powerful and encouraging in a world where they were facing constant persecution and doubt. I believe these words can be a great encouragement to you as well.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”
Philippians 1:6

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	1 Corinthians 1:8; Philippians 2:13, 16
Tuesday	Galatians 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:24
Wednesday	Psalms 138:8; 2 Corinthians 8:6
Thursday	Philippians 1:10, 25; 2 Thessalonians 2:2
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:10
Saturday	2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 12:2

[illegible]

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. How did Dr. McGee's testimony encourage you to trust God to come through for you?
3. What does the term "confidence" mean to you? How could the Apostle Paul be so confident that God would come through no matter what?
4. What part of God's work in your salvation is the most striking to you? Explain.
5. What is the best thing that has happened for you in your life apart from your salvation? How would your salvation be even greater than that?

6. Would you consider yourself to be “growing in Christ”? What does that look like in your life?

Family Discussion Questions

1. How much does God love us? Can you think of a verse that tells us how much God loves us?
2. What did Jesus do for us so our sins could be forgiven?
3. What must we do to become a part of God’s family (salvation)?
4. Can you name some of the things that God does for us as part of our salvation? e.g. drawing us, sending His Son, etc.
5. What are some things we can be sure of?
6. What are some ways God could use this verse in our life if we would memorize it?

Week 4 – Paul’s Prayer for the Philippians

Philippians 1:9-11

Paul’s thoughts easily moved from thanksgiving to petitioning prayer. The two were part of the same spiritual activity, but more than that, Paul acknowledged that the good done in the Philippians’ lives came from God. As a part of his response in praise, he prayed that God would continue his work in them.

This prayer resembles the prayer in Colossians. The similarity goes beyond the fact that the prayer follows quickly upon thanksgiving. Similarities of words reveal a similarity of content. No doubt Paul wrote them both at a time when he pondered the same thoughts on Christian growth, perhaps because of his own situation in life. The vocabulary and conceptual parallels include the following:

Phil 1:9–11	Col 1:9–11
I pray	praying
(proseuchomai)	(proseuchomenoi)
abound in knowledge	growing in knowledge of God
(<i>epignōsei</i>)	(<i>epignōsin</i>)
in all discernment	in wisdom and understanding
(aisthesei)	(sophia kai synesei)
being filled	you may be filled
(<i>peplērōmenoi</i>)	(<i>plērōthēte</i>)
fruit of righteousness	bearing fruit
(karpon <i>dikaiosynēs</i>)	(karpophorountes)

glory and praise of God	power of his glory
(doxan kai epainon)	(kratos tēs doxēs)
a good work	every good work
(ergon agathon)	(ergō agathō)

These parallels reveal that Paul thought consistently on the matter of Christian growth, and the fact that they are parallel emphasizes the basic themes found in his requests.

This section is Paul’s prayer on behalf of the church. These verses focus on the believers’ Christlike lifestyle, while verses 3–8 focus on their position in Christ. This combines the two aspects of salvation: our position in Christ (forensic justification and positional sanctification) and our possessing of that position in Christlikeness (progressive sanctification). Verses 9–11 are one sentence in Greek.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Philippians 1:9–11

Bible Reading Plan

Monday Colossians 1:9-11; Romans 2:18

Tuesday Galatians 5:22; Acts 24:16

Wednesday Romans 12:2; 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Thursday	2 Corinthians 1:12; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9
Friday	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10; Galatians 5:22-23
Saturday	2 Thessalonians 1:3-6; Philemon 4-7

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Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. Why do you think the theme of Paul's prayer is love and not another aspect of Christian growth?
3. How could love be considered the "bedrock virtue" that allows for relationships to grow?
4. What does the expression "abound still more and more" in verse 9 mean for you in relation to growing love?
5. The Greek term for "knowledge" here generally conveys the idea of an experiential knowledge (the product of experiencing by living). How would this lend itself to expressing relationships?

6. How could understanding what is “best” help us grow to complete character?
7. In verse 11 Paul speaks of their being “filled with the fruits of righteousness.” What do you think Paul means by this statement? According to his prayer, how would this filling be accomplished?
8. Meditate on Paul’s prayer. How does his prayer for the Philippian believers compare with what you pray for your fellow believers?
9. Has God put it on your heart to pray Philippians 1:9–11 for anyone? Why not stop and pray now?

Family Discussion Questions

1. What do you think “character” means? (Character can be defined as what makes a person distinct from others, often with a particular emphasis on moral qualities. When we think of a person who has good character, we often describe them with terms like integrity, honesty, strong moral fiber, care and concern for others, and the like. Character is demonstrated in actions, but true character resides in the heart.)
2. Why is it important to pray for others?
3. How might the way God loves be different from the way we love?
4. Why would loving others like God loves be so important?
5. Give an example of “selfless love”. Or an example of something we might do for someone else even though it might inconvenience or be difficult for us?

Week 5 – Pioneers Wanted

Philippians 1:12-14

The apostle faced opposition from those outside the church and misrepresentation from some within. But this did not discourage or distract him from fulfilling God's call. Through it all, Christ was being preached, which brought him great delight. So, his bonds, instead of hindering his outreach, resulted in a greater spreading of the gospel of Christ. Paul's friends back in Philippi were apparently quite concerned about him, thinking he was discouraged, and that God's plan had gone awry. Not so, the apostle responded.

In these verses Paul moves on to the subject matter of his letter. He informs his readers about his present situation (vv. 12–17), reflects on his hopes and expectations (vv. 18–26), and proceeds to give some practical exhortations on Christian living (vv. 27–30). He regards his whole existence as determined and controlled by Christ (v. 21), and consequently his utmost concern is that the message of Christ be proclaimed regardless of the motives of those who preach it (v. 18). Only the progress of the gospel gives joy to the apostle (vv. 12, 25).

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,”
Philippians 1:12

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	2 Corinthians 4:1-15; Acts 28:30
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 10:10-18; Acts 23:31-35
Wednesday	Ephesians 3:1-13
Thursday	2 Corinthians 2:14-17; Ephesians 5:1-2
Friday	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; 2 Timothy 2:9
Saturday	Acts 28:16; Ephesians 6:20

[illegible]

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. How do you think the news of Paul's imprisonment would have affected the Philippian believers?
3. Paul mentions, "the things which happened to me". What were some of the things that happened to Paul since his arrest? (Acts 21:17 – 28:31)
4. How was Paul able to "look on the bright side" and see the positives in this restrictive situation? How might you have reacted?
5. How might hearing that Paul's "hard times" were actually advancing the gospel encourage the Philippian church?

6. The word *furtherance* means “pioneer advance.” It is a Greek military term referring to the army engineers who go before the troops to open the way into new territory. What are some things going on in your life right now that might open up new areas of ministry for you?
7. How could “hard times” in your life give you more opportunities to have contact with the lost?
8. How could our “hard times” give courage to fellow believers?
9. How could Paul’s situation have given boldness to the Philippian church to be “much more bold” to share the gospel without fear?
10. How will these verses encourage you to be more bold in sharing the gospel with others around you?

Family Discussion Questions

1. How does it make you feel when you hear that someone you love is going through a difficult time?
2. When someone keeps a good attitude even when things aren't going their way, how could that encourage you?
3. Paul was being guarded by a Roman soldier 24-hours a day. Every 4 hours the soldiers would change shifts. What do you think Paul talked about during those four hours?
4. How do you think the soldiers might have reacted to Paul sharing the good news about Jesus with them? Upset, indifferent, glad?
5. Do you think some of the soldiers might have trusted Jesus because of what they heard from Paul?
6. What are some ways you could share the gospel with others?

Week 6 – Pioneers Wanted Part 2

Philippians 1:15-18

Paul wanted to go to Rome as a preacher, but he ended up going as a prisoner. Some would consider that a failure. But Paul, with his single-minded desire to spread the Gospel all over the known world, views this inconvenience as a positive. He says that not only did it not hamper the spread of the Gospel, it actually served to help it spread even faster. It's all in our attitude.

Last week we talked about Paul's chains. We saw that his chains gave him contact with the lost. He was chained to a Roman soldier twenty-four hours a day. He got to speak to the Roman authorities. The government was having to study the doctrines of the Christian faith in order to be able to properly rule on his case. Paul had contact with people he would have not had to opportunity with had he not been in this situation.

We learned last week that our chains may not be as dramatic or difficult, but there is no reason why God cannot use us in the same way. We concluded with the next steps of:

Learn how to rejoice at what God is going to do instead of complaining about what God did not do.

Being willing to let God use our hard times to further the Gospel.

This week we move on to Paul's critics in verses 15-18.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.” Philippians 1:18

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Philippians 1:15-18; Romans 8:33-39
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:17-25;
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Thursday	Philippians 2:3; James 3:16
Friday	Luke 9:49-50; James 3:14
Saturday	Philippians 4:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:11

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. How do you normally deal with critics in your life?
3. How can we determine if there is value (truth) in our critic's assessment of us? How should we respond?
4. What is Paul's passion in this passage?
5. What is his attitude toward the fact that Christ is being preached "in pretense"? Is this the same as preaching wrong doctrine? Why or why not?
6. How does jealousy and quarreling affect the body of Christ?

7. Paul uses an interesting word in Philippians 1:16—*contention*. It means “to canvass for office, to get people to support you.” Paul’s aim was to glorify Christ and get people to follow Him; his critics’ aim was to promote themselves and win a following of their own. Have you seen this kind of behavior in the church?

How should we respond to this kind of behavior?

Family Discussion Questions

1. Do you know what jealousy means? Is being jealous good? Why or why not?

Read Philippians 2:3-5. Instead of being jealous, how should we act?

2. Do you know what motives are? Give an example of doing something with the wrong motive. A good motive.
3. Why is it important for the message of Jesus (the Gospel) to be spread?

Week 7 – Pioneers Wanted Part 3

Philippians 1:19-26

While Paul rejoices in the good that his imprisonment has accomplished, he looks forward with eager expectation to being released soon. He writes: ‘... I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you’ (vv. 25–26).

While Paul is optimistic about being released, he realizes that he has not been given a special revelation from God concerning this matter. It is possible that he will not be released but will rather be executed.

Paul did not tremble at the thought of death. He considered it to be a most welcome prospect. He expressed a desire ‘to depart and be with Christ’ which would be for Paul ‘far better’ (v. 23). Such words seem very strange to many people these days. This life is generally regarded as being so very wonderful that we must cling to it at all costs. We would have no trouble agreeing with Paul if he had said, ‘I would prefer to die than to continue in prison.’

We are all familiar with situations that are so dreadful that death is a relief. But Paul is not saying that death is better than the worst of life. He is saying death is better than the best of life. In other words, he was not longing for death as the way out of unbearable circumstances. He was longing for it as the way into unspeakably glorious circumstances.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:8
Tuesday	Romans 14:8; 1 Corinthians 15:42-55
Wednesday	Romans 8:28; Romans 8:33-39
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
Friday	2 Corinthians 4:10, 1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Saturday	1 Peter 1:11; 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. How could Paul regard death as better than life in this world?
Read 1 Corinthians 15:20–58; 2 Corinthians 5:1–8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.
3. It is easy to quote Romans 8:28 unthinkingly. Mention one or two incidents where you have seen the outworking of the truth of this verse.
4. You have learned that a dear friend or family member has been diagnosed with a terminal illness. How does Paul's teaching here help you to give practical advice to that person? How does it help you, personally, to prepare for death?
5. Turn Philippians 1:20 into a personal prayer and write it below. Then make it your prayer.

6. Paul seemed to look forward to death! In Philippians 1:21 he said that to die was gain. According to the text, why did Paul look forward to death?

Family Discussion Questions

1. What is the most important thing in life for you right now?
2. What does it mean to “magnify Christ”?
3. What are some ways we can “magnify Christ”?
4. The Apostle Paul was not afraid of life or death. How can a person have a peace about dying?
5. From Philippians 1:21, 23 and 2 Corinthians 5:6–8, where does a Christian’s soul and spirit go when he dies?

Week 8 – Act Your Identity

Philippians 1:27-30

The Christian life is not a playground; it is a battleground. We are sons in the family, enjoying the fellowship of the Gospel (Phil. 1:1–11); we are servants sharing in the furtherance of the Gospel (Phil. 1:12–26); but we are also soldiers defending the faith of the Gospel. And the believer with the single mind can have the joy of the Holy Spirit even in the midst of battle.

“The faith of the Gospel” is that body of divine truth given to the church. Jude calls it “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). Paul warns in 1 Timothy 4:1 that “in the latter times some shall depart from the faith.” God committed this spiritual treasure to Paul (1 Tim. 1:11), and he in turn committed it to others, like Timothy (1 Tim. 6:20), whose responsibility was to commit this deposit to still others (2 Tim. 2:2). This is why the church must engage in a teaching ministry, so that each new generation of believers will know, appreciate, and use the great heritage of the faith.

But there is an enemy who is out to steal the treasure from God’s people. Paul had met the enemy in Philippi, and he was now facing him in Rome. If Satan can only rob believers of their Christian faith, the doctrines that are distinctively theirs, then he can cripple and defeat the ministry of the Gospel. It is sad to hear people say, “I don’t care what you believe, just so long as you live right.” What we believe determines how we behave, and wrong belief ultimately means a wrong life. Each local church is but one generation short of potential extinction. No wonder Satan attacks our young people in particular, seeking to get them away from “the faith.”

How can a group of Christians fight this enemy? “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh” (2 Cor. 10:4). Peter

took up a sword in the Garden, and Jesus rebuked him (John 18:10–11). We use spiritual weapons—the Word of God and prayer (Eph. 6:11–18; Heb. 4:12); and we must depend on the Holy Spirit to give us the power that we need. But an army must fight together, and this is why Paul sends these admonitions to his friends at Philippi. He is explaining in this paragraph that there are three essentials for victory in the battle to protect “the faith.”

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,” Philippians 1:27

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 5:1
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:14-15; Acts 5:41
Wednesday	Ephesians 4:1; 6:10
Thursday	2 Thessalonians 2:15-17; Colossians 1:10
Friday	2 Thessalonians 1:5; Jude 3
Saturday	1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Timothy 4:7

[illegible]

Post-Sunday Content

2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Let's study what it means to suffer for His sake as Philippians 1:29 teaches. So many of us want to run away from suffering, to avoid it at all costs. We do not realize the awful price we may pay if we are not willing to suffer.

Are you wondering what we mean by the statement "the awful price we may pay if we are not willing to suffer"? See if you can find out as you study this subject of "suffering for His sake."

2. Prayerfully read and meditate on the following passages of Scripture. As you do, record any pertinent 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. Philippians 3:10

g. 1 Thessalonians 3:2–4

h. 2 Timothy 3:10–12

i. Hebrews 10:32–36

j. 1 Peter 1:6–9; 2:18–25; 4:1; 4:12–5:1; 5:8–10—If you're not sure of the meanings of "perfect" and "confirm" in 1 Peter 5:10, look up the definitions.

3. Summarize, as briefly as you can, the purpose of suffering in a Christian's life. How are we to respond to suffering?

Family Discussion Questions

1. How could living the Christian life be like being in a battle?
2. How could the family of God fight our enemy, Satan?
3. What do you think it means to “live like citizens of heaven”?
4. How could living the Christian life be like being on a sports team?

Week 9 – Unity Through Humility

Philippians 2:1-4

Verses 1-4 are one single sentence in the Greek language that Paul wrote. He is continuing his thought from the previous verses. We are to be living like citizens of heaven. How do citizens of heaven live? We find out in this section as Paul spells out what kind of attitude we're supposed to have toward others in the body of Christ.

So far, throughout this letter we've seen the reason Paul could remain joyful in the midst of his circumstances. It was the result of his single mind. Above all, Jesus.

Now we turn to the attitude that allows us to remain joyful in spite of people. Paul exhibited the single mind. Now he tells the church to exhibit the submissive mind. This attitude is one of humility. And it is through this humble-minded submissiveness to one another that we gain and maintain unity. But humility can be an elusive thing.

Harry Ironside, well-known preacher and author from a previous generation, used to tell the story of his struggle with humility. He asked an elder friend what he could do about it. His friend counseled him to make a sandwich board with the plan of salvation in Scripture on it and to wear it as he walked throughout the business and shopping district of downtown Chicago for one entire day.

Ironside did it and found it to be a humiliating experience. As he was taking the sandwich board off, however, he caught himself thinking: "There's not another person in Chicago who would be willing to do a thing like that."

Yes, humility is a difficult thing. Just the moment you think you have it, you've lost it. Humility is essential to successful relationships. It is the oil that makes the intersecting gears of human personalities turn without grinding on each other.

Love and humility go together. You cannot have one without the other. Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "Love is the only force in the universe powerful enough to change an enemy into a friend." Augustine concluded, "One loving heart sets another on fire." Benjamin Disraeli saw that "we are all born for love. It is the principle of existence and its only end."

The power of love and humility is the message of Philippians 2. Here we learn that whenever people love humbly and unselfishly, especially in the midst of strained relationships, they promote unity and spread joy. The church in Philippi needed this message.

Two women were disagreeing (4:2–3). Others argued and complained (v. 14). In Philippians 2, Paul shares the attitudes and actions that will restore peace to strained relationships. We need this counsel, for "keeping the peace" in our relationships is always a challenge. As we study Philippians 2, we learn from the apostle Paul how to unify relationships by humbly looking out for the interests of others (v. 4).

Key/Memory Verse(s)

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philippians 2:3–4

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Romans 15:1-7
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:10-16
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 6:1-11
Thursday	Ephesians 4:1-6
Friday	Colossians 3:12-15
Saturday	Philippians 4:2-3

[illegible]

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Many times we find ourselves doctrinally correct, serving in our church, and witnessing to the world; yet, we can be divided with the rest of the body of Christ, striving among ourselves, proud of our staunch stand on and knowledge of the Word of God, and impatient and disapproving with those who will not see things our way. Everything is correct doctrinally, but what about our conduct?

2. Verses 1 and 2 of Philippians 2 are part of one sentence. The core of the sentence is "make my joy complete." Fill out the following chart from what you learn from verses 1 and 2:

If		By Being
	Make my joy complete	

3. According to verse 2, what is your responsibility?
4. How could the unity of the body of Christ fill us with joy?
5. How is unity different from uniformity?

6. What are some examples of doing things through strife in the church?
7. How would looking out for the needs of others above our own promote unity?

Family Discussion Questions

1. How could knowing we belong to Jesus be an encouragement to us?
2. How could knowing God loves us give us comfort?
3. How might we cooperate with the Holy Spirit by promoting unity within the family of God?
4. What are some ways we could show compassion and mercy to others?
5. Why would doing things to impress others be a wrong way to do things?

Week 10 – It’s About You

Philippians 2:5-11

Now Paul is going to tell us about the mind of Christ.

The mind of Christ—what is the one thing that characterized it? Humility. You may recall that in Ephesians 4 we are told, “... walk worthy of the calling with which you were called.” Then it goes on to describe this: “With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love” (Eph. 4:1–2). That is the mind of Christ.

You and I can’t be humble. We can’t be meek. We are not made that way. We want to stand on our own two feet and have our little say. All of us are like that. Don’t say you are not, because you really are. None of us wants to be offended. None of us wants to be ignored. We develop hang-ups if we are brought up in such a way that we have been trampled on.

Paul gives us four examples of the submissive mind: Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:1–11), Paul himself (Phil. 2:12–18), Timothy (Phil. 2:19–24), and Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25–30). Of course, the great Example is Jesus, and Paul begins with Him. Jesus Christ illustrates the four characteristics of the person with the submissive mind.

This week we look at the example of Jesus.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became

obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”
Philippians 2:5–8

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Acts 17:22-28
Tuesday	Romans 5:18-19; 8:3
Wednesday	Romans 14:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
Thursday	Philippians 2:3; Hebrews 12:2
Friday	Matthew 20:28; Hebrews 2:9
Saturday	Matthew 23:12; 26:39

[illegible]

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Philippians 2:5–11 is one of the greatest passages in the Word of God on the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. The doctrine of the Incarnation (Jesus becoming flesh) teaches that God became man, that Christ was God in the flesh. These seven verses are saturated with doctrine at its richest! What a picture of our Christ: His majesty, His humility, His love, His obedience! He has been given to us as an example, as a pattern, as a way of life so that we might let this mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus.

2. Prayerfully read Philippians 2:5–11 and answer the following questions:

- a. What do these verses teach about Christ before He became a man?

1)

2)

- b. What did He do in order to become (or when He became) man?

- c. What was His station in life as a man? In other words, what position did He hold as a man when He was on earth according to this passage?
 - d. Compare His position before He became man and after He became man. How do they contrast?
 - e. To what extent was Christ obedient?
 - f. What attitude was necessary for His obedience?
 - g. What was God's response to Christ's obedience?
 - 1)
 - 2)
3. Given Jesus' example, what are the characteristics of the person with the *submissive mind*?

Family Discussion Questions

1. What does the word, “attitude” mean?
2. Why would it be a good thing to have the same attitude Jesus had when He was on the earth?
3. Is Jesus God?
4. What do you think things were like for Jesus in heaven before He came to earth?
5. What do you think it was like for Jesus to leave a wonderful place like heaven to come to earth to be a servant and end up dying on the cross for us? Was it a big change for Him?
6. What did Jesus have to give up to come to earth?
7. Why is it good for us to think of others instead of ourselves?
8. Why is it important for us to serve others?
9. What do you think it means to “sacrifice” something?
10. Why do you think it means more to someone else when we sacrifice something to serve them?

Week 11 – Your Daily Workout

Philippians 2:12-13

Few things are harder to put up with,” wrote Mark Twain, “than the annoyance of a good example.” Maybe the thing most annoying about a good example is its inability to accomplish the same achievements in our own lives. Admiration for a great person can inspire us, but it cannot enable us. Unless the person can enter into our own lives and share his skills, we cannot attain to his heights of accomplishment. It takes more than an example on the outside; it takes power on the inside.

Paul has just presented Jesus Christ as our great Example in the exercise of the submissive mind. We read it, and we agree with it, *but how do we go about practicing it?* How could any mortal man ever hope to achieve what Jesus Christ achieved? It seems almost presumptuous to even try! Here we are, trying to develop humility, and we are exercising pride by daring to imitate the Lord Jesus Christ!

The problem is really not that difficult. Paul is not asking us to “reach for the stars,” though the higher the goal the more we ought to achieve. Instead, he is setting before us the divine *pattern* for the submissive mind and the divine *power* to accomplish what God has commanded. “It is God which works in you” (Phil. 2:13). It is not by imitation, but by incarnation—“Christ lives in me” (Gal. 2:20). The Christian life is not a series of ups and downs. It is rather a process of “ins and outs.” God works *in*, and we work *out*. We cultivate the submissive mind by responding to the divine provisions God makes available to us.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

Philippians 2:12–13

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-6
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:20-24
Wednesday	Colossians 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
Thursday	2 Corinthians 7:15; 1 Corinthians 2:3
Friday	2 Corinthians 3:5; 1 Corinthians 15:10
Saturday	Hebrews 13:21; 1 Corinthians 15:58

[illegible]

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. Understanding the truths in these verses is absolutely liberating. In verse 12, who is to do the work?
3. In verse 13, who is doing the work?
4. From verse 12, write the word that follows "work".
5. From verse 13, write the two words that follow "who works".
6. So, we see that verse 12 shows man's responsibility in working **out** what God works **in** him in verse 13. What is God working in us?
 - a.
 - b.
7. For whom or what is He working these things?
8. What is to be our attitude toward our responsibility?

9. Why would Paul bother to tell them to work out this salvation not only in his presence but also in his absence?
10. By way of personal application, write what you have learned from Philippians 2:12–13. Personalize your writing by using the pronoun “I.”

Family Discussion Questions

1. What does the Bible say is the way to become part of God’s family?
2. Once we are saved, what does God expect of us?
3. How does He expect us to “work out our own salvation?”
4. How do “good works” fit into the Christian life?
5. How does God work “in” us?
6. Does it please God when we do what He wants?
7. What can you do this week that would please God?

Week 12 – Stop It!

Philippians 2:14-15

We don't have to read far into the Bible to understand that God hates grumbling and disputing. When we complain and grumble, we are telling those around us that we believe God is doing a very poor job, and, if given the opportunity, we could do much better.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“Do all things without complaining and disputing,” Philippians 2:14

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Deuteronomy 32:5; 1 Corinthians 10:10
Tuesday	Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Peter 4:9
Wednesday	Matthew 10:16; Daniel 12:3
Thursday	Ephesians 5:8;
Friday	Acts 6:1; 1 Timothy 2:8
Saturday	Ephesians 1:4; 2 Peter 3:14

[illegible]

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

2. From Philippians 2:14–15 answer the following questions:
 - a. What is the difference between “grumbling” and “disputing”? Record the English transliteration of the Greek words and their definitions.
 - 1) Grumbling
 - 2) disputing
 - b. When are we allowed to grumble or dispute?
3. How does verse 15 relate to verse 14?

4. Look up the following references to grumbling and record your findings.
 - a. Jude 16 (context 3–4, 14–16)

 - b. Numbers 13:16–14:38. Also, check Hebrews 3:17–19 to see what God says about these grumblers.

c. 1 Corinthians 10:1–13—How does this compare with the passage you just read in Numbers? First Corinthians 10:6–11 tells us five things we are **not** to do. List them.

5. Now, how do you apply what you’ve learned about “grumbling”?

Family Discussion Questions

1. Is complaining nice?
2. Why not?
3. What about arguing?
4. What does God say about it?
5. Why does God say we should get along and not complain and argue according to verse 15?
6. What do you think it means for us to “shine among this world like stars in the sky”?

Week 13 – A Life That Counts

Philippians 2:16-18

These verses give specific instructions on how to work out God's "good purpose" (v. 13) in relation to daily Christian living.

If we're to have the submissive mind and the joy that goes with it, we must recognize that there is a purpose to achieve (God's plan for our lives), a power to receive (the Holy Spirit), and a promise to believe.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

"holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain." Philippians 2:16

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Romans 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:6
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:1-6; Galatians 2:2
Wednesday	Colossians 1:10-11; 2 Corinthians 1:14
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 2:19; 4:1-8;
Friday	Isaiah 65:23; 1 Thessalonians 3:5
Saturday	Numbers 28:7; Numbers 15:1-10

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Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. In Philippians 2:16, Paul tells the Philippians that "holding fast the word of life" will cause him to glory so that he will not have run in vain or toiled in vain. What does Paul mean when he says, "holding fast the word of life"? Look up "holding" and record the definition below.
3. What in Philippians 2 would show you how to "hold fast the word of life"? List your findings; but as you do, do not make the Word say what it does not say!
4. What was the world like in Paul's day? Does it, in any way, parallel our world today? Would those who were to hold fast the word of life have the same pressures we have today?
5. Paul uses the phrase "the day of Christ" three times in Philippians. It is also used in Paul's letters to the Corinthians. Look up the following references to "the day of

Christ,” and record what you learn about that day. Check the context of the verses as you read them!

a. Philippians 1:6

b. Philippians 1:9-10

c. Philippians 2:16

d. 1 Corinthians 1:7-8

e. 2 Corinthians 1:12-14

6. Paul used the illustration of his being “poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your [the Philippians’] faith.”

a. Read the passages below and note what you learn about the drink offering.

1) Exodus 29:38-41

2) Numbers 15:1-10

- b. Considering what the Old Testament says about the drink offering and the context of Philippians 2, why do you think Paul used the illustration in Philippians 2:17?
-
- 7. Since all Scripture is profitable for our learning and admonition, write what you have learned about **your life** from Philippians 2:16–17. Be as specific as possible. Do you pour out your life as a sacrificial offering in behalf of the faith of others? How? How much of your time and energies are spent in behalf of the furtherance of the gospel?

Family Discussion Questions

- 1. Why do you think it would be important to make a difference in this world?
- 2. How do you think we would get joy from submitting to God's will for our life?
- 3. Why would it be important not to waste our life on earth?

Week 14 – Do You Have What It Takes?

Philippians 2:19-24

Paul's incarceration had made it impossible for him to visit the saints at Philippi. He had referred to this fact earlier (v. 12). His deep and abiding concern for his friends' spiritual welfare prompted him to send Timothy to visit and to minister in his place. Timothy was at the time Paul's companion (1:1), though evidently not a prisoner. The letter would be delivered by Epaphroditus and Timothy's visit would follow.

Key/Memory Verse(s)

"But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel." Philippians 2:22

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10-12
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 3:1-6; 1 Timothy 1:2
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 8:16-23; Acts 16:1
Thursday	2 Timothy 1:3-5; Psalm 55:13
Friday	Acts 19:22
Saturday	Acts:17:14

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. Why do you think we don't see more sacrifice and service being done in the world today?
3. What do the following Scriptures teach us about Timothy's background: Acts 16:1–3; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1–5. Was Paul determined to have a Christ-centered ministry? Why? Read Colossians 1:13–18. Why is Christ entitled to pre-eminence?
5. Why do you think we would need a “servant's mind” to effectively care for others?

Family Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think it would be important to serve others?

2. What kind of attitude does it take to serve others?
3. How might being selfish keep us from noticing when others need our help?
4. Will God reward us for serving others?

Week 15 – A Good Example

Philippians 2:25-30

Paul and Timothy have a colleague. His name is Epaphroditus. Paul was a “Hebrew of the Hebrews”; Timothy was part Jew and part Gentile (Acts 16:1); and Epaphroditus was a full Gentile as far as we know. He was the member of the Philippian church who risked his health and life to carry their missionary offering to the apostle in Rome (Phil. 4:18). His name means “charming” and a charming Christian he is!

Key/Memory Verse(s)

“Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;” Philippians 2:29

Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Romans 16;1-2; 1 Corinthians 16:10-12
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 3:1-6; 8:16-23
Wednesday	1 Timothy 1:18-19
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
Friday	Galatians 6:2
Saturday	2 Corinthians 9:5

[illegible]

Post-Sunday Content

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?
2. Why is it important to be a good example?
3. What does it mean to be a balanced Christian?
4. How would a burden for others help us in our service for them?

Family Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to be a good example?
2. What are some ways we can be a good example to others?