

Philippians
Leader Guide
(NASB and ESV)

HOW TO HAVE JOY

Philippians Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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THE PURPOSE OF LEADER GUIDES

Leader guides are intended for you, the leader, to help plan your discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the theology of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from completing their homework. Leader Guides are not designed to do the homework for you! Please refer to them after you have completed your assignment as a student.

These guides can assist you in preparing the lesson plans to use for leading the discussions. This is not the only way to lead your discussion of the Scriptures, but it is one way you could approach the material in the lesson.

The Holy Spirit must be your guide as you plan to lead these discussions. He is the one who knows what your group needs. Be in prayer for them as they study and for yourself as you plan to lead the discussions.

Keep in mind learning is enhanced when your group is encouraged to verbalize what they've learned. Asking questions will help them to reason through the Scriptures they have studied. Ask the "5 Ws and an H" kinds of questions (Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How). Asking these kinds of questions requires more than a yes or no answer.

Visual aids can be a tremendous asset in helping your group to reason through the Scriptures. These discussion guides will give you some ideas for visual aids, but please feel free to adapt, change, or even replace these with your own ideas.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV Precept Upon Precept courses. The ESV follows the NASB with a slash / or is set off with parentheses.

**PHILIPPIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1**

Lesson emphasis

- Philippians overview

You might begin this discussion by asking your group if anything in Philippians spoke to them personally as they studied this lesson. Let them share briefly so that you have plenty of time to discuss the overview.

Then you can ask them to turn to their At a Glance charts as a visual aid for the rest of the discussion. Also, they'll need to have in front of them the Observation Worksheets of Philippians or their Bibles, whichever they marked.

To begin this discussion, you can ask them what they think Philippians is about. Or to put it in an application sort of way, if someone who knew they were studying Philippians asked them what it's about, what would they say?

Rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ always

Who was the author, writer, of this letter to the Philippian saints? What were his circumstances? How does that relate to the emphasis on joy/rejoice?

Paul was in prison when he wrote to the Philippians about rejoicing.

Who was with him when he wrote this?

Timothy and a Philippian named Epaphroditus

Paul said he wanted to send Timothy soon to the Philippians for their encouragement.

Epaphroditus must have been the one to bring the gift they'd sent to Paul. Paul sent him back home after he recovered from his illness.

Why does it seem that Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians?

According to Philippians 4:15-19, they sent a gift to Paul and he let them know he had received it.

It's a letter of encouragement and warning.

A good order for your discussion is chapter by chapter.

As you lead your group to discuss each chapter, ask questions about the author, recipients, and the key words they marked.

When appropriate, ask application questions.

PHILIPPIANS 1

What is this chapter about?

How does it relate to Paul's message of rejoicing in the Lord?

Chapter 1 gives details about Paul's imprisonment for the cause of Christ. He introduced himself and Timothy as bond-servants (ESV—servants) of Christ, 1:1.

Ask your group how this might relate to them. Do any of them feel like they're in prison? Is it for the cause of Christ? What is their attitude in it?

The first time "joy" is used in this letter is in verse 4. Paul prayed with joy as he remembered the Philippians. He rejoiced that they had participated in the gospel with him.

Paul wasn't focused on being in prison.

This letter was one of encouragement for the Philippians to read. He wrote to them that he longed for them with Christ's affection.

NOTE: Someone might bring up "the day of Christ" from verses 6 and 10. Don't discuss it at this point as they'll spend some time in a later lesson studying this more.

What might have encouraged the Philippians in verses 9-11?

Paul's prayer for them

What did he write about in verses 12-20?

Paul's attitude was rejoicing because his circumstances progressed / advanced the gospel, 1:12, 18. Even though there were some who tried to distress / afflict him by preaching the gospel from motives of envy and strife / rivalry, his attitude was joy.

The Philippians prayed for Paul when they heard he was in prison.

How does joy relate to that situation? Why did Paul rejoice? Where was his focus as he said in verses 21-26?

His focus was totally on Christ Jesus; to live is Christ and to die is gain, 1:21.

If he was going to live, he reasoned, then his focus was on those for whom Christ called him to live.

What was his instruction to the Philippians in verses 27-30?

Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy (ESV—let your manner of life be worthy)
of Christ’s gospel
Standing firm
Striving together (one mind) for the faith (ESV—striving side by side)
Not alarmed / frightened by opponents

What does the text say about their circumstances?

The Philippians were also suffering for Christ’s sake.
They were experiencing the same conflict that Paul was.

What is the theme of this chapter? Direct them to look at their At a Glance chart.

Probably something like:
Paul in prison, rejoiced that Christ was proclaimed

PHILIPPIANS 2

How does the flow of thought continue from 1:27-30?

Paul told them to make his joy complete by being of the same mind

“Mind or attitude” (ESV—also “think” and “reason”) is repeated several times
throughout Philippians.

Do nothing from selfishness / selfish ambition

Don’t look out for your own interests only, but others’ too.

Have this attitude / mind . . . also in Christ.

You might ask what the attitude or mind of chapter 2 is.

Verses 3 and 5 present Christ’s attitude or mind of humility.

NOTE: The wonderful description of Christ in verses 6-11 will be studied in greater detail later in the course.

What does verse 18 say about rejoicing?

Rejoice / Be glad in the same way as Paul. Share joy.

Paul was in prison, but rejoiced even if he was being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of the Philippians’ faith. He was an example of what he told them to do.

Encourage your group that they can do the same thing. They can have Christ's attitude, Paul's focus, joy in all circumstances.

Ask why they think Timothy and Epaphroditus are mentioned in this chapter.

They're also examples of men who had the attitude or mind of humility, regarding others as more important than themselves.

Verses 28-29 seem to indicate that Epaphroditus took this letter with him when he returned to Philippi. Paul told them to receive him with joy—and hold men like him in high regard (ESV—honor such men).

To summarize the discussion of this chapter, you can ask what your group noted on their At a Glance charts as the theme.

Complete joy in having Christ's attitude or mind of humility

PHILIPPIANS 3

How does this chapter begin? What is it about?

Rejoice in the Lord.

Beware, beware, beware (ESV—look out).

Put no confidence in the flesh.

As the previous chapter was filled with examples for the Philippians, this one is a warning for them.

What do verses 4-14 say about Paul?

He was a Hebrew, a Pharisee, one who had kept the Law.
But he no longer put confidence in the flesh; instead he counted it all rubbish.
He only wanted to press on to know Christ Jesus.

What does this chapter say about “mind or attitude”?

If anyone had a mind / reason to put confidence in the flesh, it was Paul.
Enemies of Christ's cross set their minds on earthly things.

Contrast this with Paul's attitude of living by the standard attained in pressing on to know Christ more.

What did Paul write in verse 17?

He called the Philippians to follow his example (ESV—imitate him).

Ask what your group observed from verses 20-21 about Christ Jesus. What does that have to do with a believer's attitude?

Christ will return from heaven—where believers are truly citizens, not this world

He will transform our earthly bodies to conformity with His.

That should help all believers to rejoice in the Lord and press on to know Him, not focus on this earth and have confidence in the flesh and earthly things.

What is the theme of this chapter?

No confidence in flesh, press on to know Christ

Follow Paul's example (ESV—Imitate Paul): know Christ

PHILIPPIANS 4

How does this chapter begin? What is it about? How does Paul end this letter?

This begins with an encouragement for the Philippians.

They were Paul's joy and crown.

He told them to stand firm in the Lord.

What are verses 4-9 about?

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Be anxious for nothing.

Paul told them what to dwell on / think about.

It's what to think about and what to practice.

These verses tell how to have a life of peace.

Joy and peace fit together and honor the Lord Jesus—set an example for others to follow.

Ask about Paul's attitude in this chapter and his relationship to Christ.

He had learned to be content in whatever circumstances he was in, and he had learned the secret of living regardless of his circumstances.

He was confident that he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him.

Ask what they noted as the theme for this chapter on their At a Glance charts.

Stand firm in the Lord, rejoice always, learn to be content
And / or
Live in harmony and peace; humble and content

What is Philippians about?

Rejoice in the Lord always

What was Paul's attitude or mind?

Joy in prison because Christ was his life, gospel proclaimed
Joy shared with others because of Christ's attitude or mind of humility
Rejoicing, pressing on to know Christ more
Greatly rejoicing, learning to be content because believers can do all through Christ

**PHILIPPIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis:

- Philippians 1 observations
- Acts 15–17:1

REVIEW

You might begin this discussion by asking what your group remembers about the main theme of Philippians and the historical setting, what the times were like.

Paul was in prison at the time he wrote the letter. He was imprisoned for the cause of Christ, not for a crime.

The Philippians were being opposed in their faith, too.

The church at Philippi was an established church because they had overseers and deacons.

ACTS 15:36–17:1

Direct your group to look at the map as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

NOTE: Acts 15:36 was the beginning of Paul's second missionary journey. Barnabas had been with him on the first one.

How did Paul and Timothy become acquainted? How did the Philippian church begin?

Paul and Silas, or Silvanus, went to Lystra, and Timothy was there.

Timothy was a believer, well-spoken of by other believers in his town and another town nearby. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek.

Paul wanted to take Timothy with him on the rest of his journey.

Timothy submitted to being circumcised because of the Jews they would encounter. Timothy's willingness to be circumcised showed his maturity of character. It seems that Paul and Timothy were willing to do anything in order to preach the gospel.

Why did they go to Philippi according to Acts 16:6-10?

The Spirit of God specifically led them there.
It was a new place for them to go.

How was Philippi described?

Philippi was a leading city in the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony.

Since they looked for a place to worship on the sabbath, this probably indicates that there was no Jewish synagogue there.

Evidently they only found some women assembled at the river to worship God.

What happened at Philippi?

Lydia and her whole household were saved. They were the beginning of the saints at Philippi, the church.

After Paul cast the demon out of the slave girl, he and Silas were put in prison. Beaten and bound, they were praying and singing hymns of praise to God. They were doing what he wrote about to the Philippians.

The earthquake opened the doors and unfastened the chains / bonds. As a result of their not leaving the jail, they were able to preach the gospel to the jailer. He and his household were saved and baptized. They were another part of the church at Philippi.

After declaring their Roman citizenship, they were asked by the city leaders to leave Philippi. So they encouraged the new brethren there and left, going on to Thessalonica.

According to Acts 20:1-6, Paul returned to Philippi on his third missionary journey.

Direct your group to the chart in the lesson about Paul's life as a visual aid.
When does it indicate that Paul wrote Philippians?

While he was in prison in Rome for two years—Acts 28
That imprisonment was approximately ten years after Paul went to Philippi the first time.

Paul was in prison, but the gospel was being proclaimed.
The whole praetorian / imperial guard and Caesar's household heard.
He was delivered from that imprisonment.

Compare this with 2 Timothy 1:8-18 and 4:6-22.

Paul was about to die when he wrote Timothy.
Timothy was with Paul when he wrote Philippians.
Paul knew that he was not going to die in prison when he wrote Philippians.
He hoped to return to Philippi when he wrote them.

So, it was not his last imprisonment when he wrote Philippians.

At this point, ask your group what they learned from their study of Philippians 1.

PHILIPPIANS 1

What are the first two verses about?

Paul refers to himself and Timothy as bond-servants (ESV—servants) of Christ.

He refers to the recipients as saints.

Then he mentioned the overseers and deacons.

It was an established church by the time Paul wrote to them.

Verses 3-8

What are these verses about?

Paul told his brethren / brothers that he was thankful for them.

He prayed for them—with joy because they participated in the gospel from the beginning and still were. Lydia probably was the one to give the gospel to her household. They participated from the beginning.

They also sent gifts more than once to Paul as he preached the gospel.

All believers are to be participating / partners in the gospel.

Ask what your group learned about God in verse 6.

God began the good work of salvation in them.
He will also complete it.

That is also true of all believers.

You might give a few minutes for application at this point.

This verse can be a great encouragement to those who are struggling through trials or temptations.

If they are born again, there is hope and a future, and God is maturing them, bringing them up in Christ.

Paul's confidence in relation to the Philippians was really in God who had called them.

Continue discussing what they learned about Paul and the Philippians in these verses.

Paul was in prison in Rome. It had been about 10 years since he had been to Philippi.

He prayed for them, had them in his heart; he loved them.

They were partakers, sharers, of grace with him. They understood the cost of proclaiming the gospel.

Verses 9-11

Ask about the prayer.

NOTE: This prayer will be studied more in the next lesson.

He prayed that their love abound in knowledge and discernment.

It might sound strange that knowledge and discernment are connected with one's love abounding.

Knowledge and discernment help believers approve the things that are excellent.
The result: sincere / pure and blameless until the day of Christ.

Compare this with verse 6. What does it say?

God will perfect His work of salvation in a believer until the day of Christ.

Believers are to be approving the excellent things to be sincere / pure and blameless until the day of Christ.

One is God's part, and one is the believer's part.

Believers fulfill their part because they have been filled with the fruit of righteousness through Jesus Christ.

You might ask if it would be appropriate to pray these verses for one another.

Verses 12-26

What did Paul say about his circumstances? What are the key words in these verses?

Paul knew his imprisonment had turned out for the greater progress / advancement of the gospel. He knew and understood God's sovereignty even in his imprisonment.

The gospel was continuing to go forward. He was in prison for the cause of Christ and the whole praetorian / imperial guard and others in Rome knew why he was there.

Paul was appointed for the defense of the gospel.
He rejoiced that it was proclaimed, regardless of the proclaimer's motive.

That should be every believer's attitude.

How did Paul describe his relationship with Christ?

Christ exalted / honored was all that mattered to Paul. Christ was everything to him.

He knew his strength came through prayer and the Spirit of Jesus Christ. He was confident; he knew that their prayers and the provision / help of the Spirit would bring his deliverance. This probably referred to his deliverance from prison.

Paul's expectation and hope was that Christ always be exalted / honored in his body, whether by life or by death. He expected to be bold, not ashamed.

He was in prison in Rome. The outcome, if death, meant he would be with Christ. If not, then Christ was his life. He had an eternal perspective.

Paul knew he would live for a while longer, and it meant fruitful labor for him.

His desire was to depart and be with Christ because he knew that to be better. Yet his earthly labor was more necessary for their sake. He wanted to see them again.

That's a great view to have on one's life.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

Verses 27-30

Ask about the instruction in verse 27, what it means and how it relates to the rest of the chapter.

Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy (ESV—let your manner of life be worthy) of the gospel. That's still a command for all believers now.

Paul's desire for them was that they live a righteous lifestyle whether he was with them or absent from them.

He wanted to hear that the believers were standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

They had opponents, but they were not to be alarmed / frightened by them. Unity gives strength to believers.

The Philippians could understand that their conflict was a sign of destruction for their opponents. It was also a sign of salvation for the believers. Both destruction and salvation are from God.

You might ask your group if they promote verses 27-28 toward their brothers and sisters. What about those who are suffering in prison right now for the gospel's sake?

Believers need to pray for one another so that all remember to stand firm in whatever suffering they're going through and not be alarmed / frightened.

Paul said it has been granted for Christ's sake not only to believe in Him but also to suffer for His sake.

Suffering is a given for believers.

The Philippians were experiencing the same conflict they saw and heard Paul experience.

You might ask your group if they think of suffering for Christ as a gift.

End your discussion by asking if they are conducting themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Ask how God spoke to them through this chapter.

**PHILIPPIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis:

- Philippians 1

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask them: What is Philippians about? Who wrote it and to whom? Why?

Paul wrote this letter to the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi.

Silas, Timothy, and he took the gospel to Philippi, and the church began there.

The Philippians sent a gift to Paul while he was in prison, and he wrote to thank them for the gift.

His main message to them was to rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ always. They were going through persecution as were Paul and Timothy.

PHILIPPIANS 1

Verses 1-2

How does this letter begin? What are the specific groups of people?

Paul described himself and Timothy as bond-servants (ESV—servants) of Christ Jesus.

The Philippian believers were labeled as “saints.”

Overseers and deacons are also mentioned in this introduction.

As you discuss what your group learned about these people, you might briefly list the main points about each as a visual aid.

Ask what they learned about a bond-servant / servant.

Deuteronomy 15:12-18

The Law God gave to Israel allowed for a kinsman / brother, fellow Hebrew, who was sold as a slave to another Israelite to go free after 6 years.

The slave was sent away furnished liberally as the Lord had blessed the master.

The reason one might have chosen to remain a servant to his master forever was because he loved his master and his household because he fared well with his master.

If the servant / slave chose to stay, his ear was pierced to mark him as a slave.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and Galatians 1:10

Christ's slave is not his own; he was bought with a price.

A believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, believers are to glorify God in their bodies.

A servant strives / tries to please Christ.

Give time for your group to discuss how being a servant of Christ relates to them.

Ask what they learned about saints.

Hagios means "sacred, holy."¹

A saint is one set apart to God, consecrated to His purposes.

Philippians 1:1 indicates all believers are saints.

1 Corinthians 1:1-2

All everywhere who call on Christ's name are saints, including the overseers and deacons in the churches.

How does this relate to the instruction in Philippians 1:27?

Conduct (ESV—manner of life) worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ

Help your group understand that if they are born again, then God calls them saints whether they feel saintly or not. You might introduce some of them to each other as, "Saint . . ."

What does the word "overseer" mean? Ask what they learned about overseers.

Episkopos—means "one who watches over,"² "one who had the responsibility of oversight."³

NOTE: Your group might recognize "Episcopal" is derived from this Greek word.

¹Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000). 32.

²Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000). 167.

³Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 448.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

The office of overseer in the church is a good, commendable, admirable office to desire.

Above reproach
Husband of one wife

NOTE: "Husband of one wife" is understood by most to mean a one-woman man. Don't let your discussion turn into a debate about this.

Temperate (ESV—sober-minded)
Prudent (ESV—self-controlled)
Respectable
Hospitable
Able to teach—God's Word

Then a list of what the overseers' character and actions are not to be like

Not addicted to wine / a drunkard
Not pugnacious / violent
Not a new / recent convert—not a new believer so that he does not become conceited / puffed up, trying to take on responsibilities he is not spiritually ready or able to handle.

Acts 20:17, 28-30

Paul spoke to the elders of the Ephesian church.

The Holy Spirit makes men overseers.

They are to shepherd / care for the church.

He warned them about speaking perverse / twisted things to draw followers for themselves.

This passage indicates elders are overseers and shepherds or pastors.

1 Peter 5:1-3

Peter was a fellow elder of the church and wrote to other elders these verses.

He also said an elder is a shepherd of God's flock, exercising oversight—overseers.

Elders are to shepherd by being examples not lording it / domineering over their flock.

Give time for your group to discuss how this study of overseers might apply to them.

Now ask what they learned about "deacons."

Diakonos means "a minister, servant."⁴

⁴Barclay Moon Newman, *A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 42.

1 Timothy 3:8-13

Deacons are to be:

- Men of dignity / dignified
- Not double-tongued
- Not addicted to much wine
- Not fond of sordid gain (ESV—not greedy for dishonest gain)
- Holding to the faith with a clear conscience

They should first be tested. If they are beyond reproach / blameless, then they serve as deacons.

NOTE: The women in verse 11 are either deaconesses or the deacons' wives. Be careful that your group doesn't get into a debate about women serving as deaconesses.

Verse 12 repeats the same requirement for deacons as for elders in verses 2 and 4-5.

The deacons who serve well obtain a high / good standing and confidence in the faith.

How does this study about deacons relate to believers in churches today?
Ask your group to consider how their lives compare to the qualities.

Lead your discussion back to Philippians 1.

Verses 3-11

How did Paul feel about the Philippians?

He was thankful for them and prayed for them always with joy because of their participation / partnership in the gospel from the time they heard it.

He was confident that Christ would perfect / complete them (bring them to maturity) until the day of Christ.

Those believers, partakers of grace with Paul, were in his heart.
He longed / yearned for them with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Paul loved them like Christ loved them.

NOTE: If someone asks about the day of Christ, it will be studied in a later lesson.

What did Paul pray for the Philippians and why?

He prayed that their love may abound more and more
in real knowledge and all discernment.

It's not that they lacked love, but that their love needed to excel still more. This love is not a sentimental kind of love, but love based on knowledge and understanding from the Word.

So that they approve the things that are excellent
to be sincere / pure and blameless
until the day of Christ

“Approve” is “to test, by implication to approve.”⁵

“In Phil. 1:10 the apostle prays that the saints may ‘approve the things that are excellent’ or ‘things that differ,’ i.e., ‘approve’ after distinguishing and discerning.”⁶

“Sincere” / “Pure” is “from *heilē*...the shining or splendor of the sun, and *krinō*...to judge, discern. Sincere, pure, unsullied, free from spot or blemish to such a degree as to bear examination in the full splendor of the sun.”⁷

Relate this to verse 6.

God continues perfecting / completing (maturing) the good work He began in believers. Paul’s prayer is about this.

Love abounding more and more—growth, maturity—based on knowledge and discernment, so that they can distinguish the most excellent things, think the right thoughts and make the right decisions in order to be spotless and without blame.

How does verse 11 fit?

Paul reminded the Philippians that they were filled with the fruit of righteousness. Their lives were to be lives of righteousness because the filling comes through Jesus Christ.

The fruit of righteousness would show that God was at work in them and should result in glory and praise to God, not themselves.

Verses 12-18

Ask about Paul’s attitude and passion in these verses.

Paul rejoiced that the gospel of Christ was proclaimed.
His attitude was joy.
His passion was the gospel.

Verses 19-26

What are these verses about and how do they connect with the previous verses?

Paul was in prison. He knew where the power for his release or ability to continue in prison with joy came from—through their prayers and the Spirit’s provision / help.

⁵Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G1381a.

⁶W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:35.

⁷Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G1506.

Again, his passion is clear. He desired to be bold, unashamed in exalting Christ in his body, whether by life or by death.

Exalting Christ is related to what Paul prayed for the Philippians.

For him to live was Christ and to die was gain.

The gospel was more important than his circumstances or his life. Life for him was Christ living through him. Death would be gain, being with Christ, so much better for Paul, and that was his desire.

Paul described continuing to live on in the flesh as fruitful labor for him. He realized it was necessary for their sake that he continue with them for their progress and joy in the faith.

Progress—another reference to the work God begins and continues in believers.

Give time to discuss any relevant application. Whose welfare is their concern?

At this point, you can ask what your group learned about death for believers.

With Christ
Gain
Much better

2 Corinthians 5:6-8

Absent / away from the body
At home with the Lord

Verses 27-30

What are these verses about?

These verses begin Paul's instructions to have a certain conduct, one worthy of Christ's gospel.

Standing firm in one spirit
Striving together / side by side with one mind

He called them to unity when being opposed.

Suffering and opposition are part of salvation.

Ask your group what they learned from the other passages they studied about suffering.

Matthew 5:10-12

Jesus said those persecuted, insulted / reviled, and lied about because of Him are blessed.
Verbal persecution

John 15:18-21

The world hates believers—all believers.
It hated Jesus first and put Him to death.
Believers should expect no better treatment from the world.
That's what the Philippians and Paul were suffering—persecution from the world.

Romans 5:1-5

These verses give some results of tribulation / suffering: perseverance / endurance, proven character, and hope

Give time for your group to share any application they think about at relevant points in this discussion.

Romans 8:16-18

When the glory of Christ is revealed, then suffering on this earth will seem so insignificant.

2 Corinthians 1:7; 4:8-18

Not only are believers sharers of Christ's sufferings, but also His comfort.

Paul was constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake so that Jesus' life was shown through Paul's life.

Paul knew his outcome; if he died, he'd be raised with Jesus. Even in all his sufferings he did not lose heart. His outer man / self was decaying / wasting away, but he was being renewed in the inner man / self. God's Holy Spirit works in believers now, just as He did in Paul and the Philippians.

Paul called his sufferings and persecutions momentary light afflictions that produced an eternal weight of glory. He looked at things from an eternal perspective, not what he could see with his eyes.

Compare this with Philippians 1:23-28 and Romans 8:18.

Philippians 3:10

Paul's desire was to know Christ in every way, even through the fellowship of His sufferings.

1 Thessalonians 3:2-4; 2 Timothy 3:10-12

Paul knew he was destined for persecution, opposition.

The same is true for those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus. It should be expected. Enduring proves believers belong to Christ.

Hebrews 10:32-36

Some were publicly reproached; others showed sympathy to prisoners and lost their property.

NOTE: You will not have time to discuss every detail of Peter's references to suffering. Keep it brief, discussing reasons or results.

1 Peter 1:6-9

Again, the attitude of rejoicing is connected with suffering and trials, which are temporal—for a little while. Testing, various trials are proof of faith and precious to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:18-25

Suffering unjustly and patiently enduring finds favor. When it is because of one's own sin, it finds no credit.

Believers have been called for this purpose. Christ suffered for believers and left an example to follow in His steps.

Jesus kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously / justly. That's the key to enduring suffering for righteousness' sake, as also in Philippians 2.

1 Peter 4:1

Compare this verse with Philippians 1:21. Paul knew that being away from this earth meant being with Christ and away from sin. This verse again shows that suffering is a fact of the believer's life.

1 Peter 4:12-5:1

Do not be surprised is an instruction. Trials are for testing. To the degree (ESV—insofar as) that believers experience, share the sufferings of Christ, they should keep on rejoicing. If reviled for Christ, it should be an encouragement.

1 Peter 5:8-10

The devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. He wants believers to fail.

Be of sober spirit / sober-minded. Watch out. Be alert. Resist the devil, firm in faith.

Suffering is for a little while. God uses it to perfect / restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish believers. This is why believers can rejoice—there are wonderful results.

To end this discussion, ask how Philippians 1 applies to the people in your group. How does it encourage them in life every day?

**PHILIPPIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4**

Lesson emphasis

- Philippians 2

REVIEW

What is Philippians about? Why did Paul write this letter?

It's a letter telling believers to have joy in Christ Jesus even when suffering opposition. Paul wrote it when he was suffering opposition in prison because of the gospel of Christ.

It's a letter of encouragement and some warning.

At the end of this lesson's guide, there is a two-column chart that you might use as a visual aid for this discussion.

What is chapter 1 about?

Verses 1-2
Paul and Timothy—servants
To saints

Verses 3-11
Paul's prayer and affection in Christ for the Philippians

Verses 12-26
Paul's circumstances

- In prison
- The gospel still being proclaimed

Paul's attitude toward life—to live is Christ

Verses 27-30
Instructions to have a certain conduct, one worthy of Christ's gospel
—standing firm in one spirit, striving together / side by side with one mind.

Call to unity when being opposed
Suffering and opposition are part of salvation.

PHILIPPIANS 2

Verses 1-4

What are the commands? What are these verses about?

Tell your group to look at the diagram in the lesson as a visual aid.

Therefore—because of opposition, suffering, conflict

The four things stated in verse 1 will help believers suffering or in conflict.

Encouragement in Christ; seek unity like Christ, be encouraging

Consolation / comfort of love; love like those loved by Christ

Fellowship of / participation in the Spirit; all believers have the Holy Spirit

Affection and compassion / sympathy; a heart that goes out to others

These are motivation for unity and right conduct.

Paul's joy would be made complete by the Philippians being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit and intent on one purpose (ESV—being in full accord and of one mind).

All of these speak of unity, oneness, and it is possible because of the truths in verse 1—Christ in them.

Verses 3-4 answer “how” to be unified, “how” to have oneness: no conceit but humility, no selfishness, regarding others more important than self.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Paul also wrote this to the Ephesian believers, and it's true for all believers for all time.

He appealed to them, encouraged them to walk in humility and gentleness, with patience, etc., just as he had the Philippians. All of the descriptions are about unity and lifestyle or conduct.

Paul encouraged them to be diligent / eager to preserve / maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Bottom-line: there is one body, Spirit, Lord, faith, baptism, God and Father of all.

Ask what your group learned about humility from the word study and cross-references.

Humble means “to make low, bring low.”⁸

1 Peter 5:6

“Humble yourselves” is the command, so the believer does the humbling, not God.

The result is that God will exalt at the proper time.

⁸ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996). G5013.

Proverbs 15:33; 22:4; 25:6-7

Humility has a reward, waits for honor, waits to be invited.

Isaiah 57:15

God dwells with the humble (ESV—contrite and lowly spirit) and revives them.

Matthew 11:29; 20:26-27; 23:12

Jesus is humble / lowly and gives rest to the one who learns from Him.

The humble person is a servant.

One who exalts himself will be humbled, and one who humbles himself will be exalted.

James 4:6

God is opposed to the proud.

But He gives grace to the humble.

So what will this look like in everyday life?

Give time to discuss application of this.

Verses 5-11

What are these verses about? Who is the first example in this chapter?

Christ Jesus had the mind of humility as a servant.

Paul commanded the Philippians and all believers to have His mind.

What is that mind?

Tell them to look at the chart in the lesson as a visual aid.

- He existed in the form of God.

This shows His deity. In order to have the form or attributes of God, He must be God. He was equal with God, but He did not hold on to or grasp that equality.

He was truly the form, the essence of God, and He never stopped being God.

- He emptied Himself.
- He took the form of a bond-servant (ESV—servant).

His character was that of a slave.

With humility of mind He regarded others more important than Himself.

- He was made in the likeness of men.

Jesus Christ was a man, but He was still completely God. Those who saw Jesus Christ saw Him as a man.

Give your group time to share what they think about these things, how this affected their lives as they meditated on these truths about Jesus. It is overwhelming to think that the God of the universe became a man to serve mankind and leave an example for believers to follow.

- He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus gave up His glory in heaven for a time, came to the earth, lived as a man, and died an awful kind of death, seen as a curse.

Jesus emptied Himself; He humbled Himself; He became obedient to death.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references. Discuss any application as it comes up.

Mark 10:45

Jesus came to serve and give His life a ransom for many.

Hebrews 2:9, 14-16

Jesus tasted, experienced death for everyone. Jesus tasted the wrath of God due all. He removed the fear of death.

Hebrews 2:17-18

Jesus became a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining (ESV—service) to God and made propitiation, reconciliation with God, for the sins of the people. Since Jesus was tempted in that which He suffered (ESV—suffered when tempted), He is able to come to the aid / help of those who are tempted.

Isaiah 52–53 and Psalm 22

These passages show that Jesus did not die an easy death with a little blood. He suffered greatly. He was marred more than any man, unrecognizable.

He was esteemed stricken, smitten of God, afflicted.

God is the one who struck down the Savior. The Lord was pleased (ESV—it was the will of the Lord) to crush Him, putting Him to grief.

The result of this is that Jesus would see His offspring, believers.

He was rejected, despised, carried our griefs and sorrows, which are a result of sin. He paid the price for man's sin. The iniquity of us all fell on Him. He was afflicted yet did not open His mouth.

He was forsaken by God yet obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

He was taunted, His bones out of joint, and his heart melted like wax.

What was God's response to Jesus' obedience in Philippians 2:9-11?

God highly exalted Jesus and gave Him a name above every name.

As a result, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord and God the Father will be glorified.

How does this relate to the instruction to have the attitude or mind of Christ?

When believers live as Paul instructed, the Father will be glorified and so will the Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTE: You should briefly discuss what your group observed in the rest of this chapter, but don't spend a lot of time on it. This will be studied in more depth in the next lesson.

Verses 12-18

What are these verses about?

“So then / Therefore”

Work out your salvation

Because God is at work in you to will and do / work His good pleasure

Paul continued to encourage and instruct regarding their conduct to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Do all things without grumbling and disputing.

that you prove yourselves

blameless and innocent

children of God above reproach / without blemish in a crooked and
perverse / twisted generation

appear / shine as lights in the world

holding fast the word of life

When the Philippians did this, how did it affect Paul?

Again, his attitude was rejoicing

Verses 19-24

Who and what are these verses about?

Timothy was also an example of a servant, a selfless one.

kindred spirit with Paul / like Paul

genuinely concerned about their welfare

sought Christ's interest and not his own

Philippians knew of his proven worth

served with Paul in the gospel like a child serving his father

Verses 25-30

Who are these verses about? What is the list about him?

Epaphroditus was a fellow-worker and a servant.

- Paul's brother in the Lord
- fellow worker
- fellow soldier, perhaps indicating facing opponents
- the Philippians' messenger and minister to Paul
- Compare 4:18—he brought their gift to Paul.
- longed for them
- distressed because Philippians heard he was sick
- their interests above his own

almost died, but God had mercy on him
 sent back by Paul to the Philippians to be received with all joy
 a man of high regard / honor who risked his life in service

To end your discussion, you can ask how God ministered particularly to them through this lesson.

Philippians 1	Philippians 2
1-2 Servants and saints 3-11 Paul's prayer and affection 12-26 Gospel; to live is Christ 27-30 Conduct / manner of life worthy of gospel Opponents Granted to suffer for Christ's sake Same conflict as Paul	Joy complete Same mind and love United in spirit / being in full accord One purpose/ of one mind Humility of mind Examples: Jesus Timothy Epaphroditus

**PHILIPPIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5**

Lesson emphasis

- Philippians 2:5-30

REVIEW

What is Philippians about? Why did Paul write this letter?

It's a letter telling believers to have joy in Christ Jesus even when suffering opposition. Paul wrote it when he was suffering opposition in prison because of the gospel of Christ.

It's a letter of encouragement and some warning.

At the end of this lesson's guide, there is a two-column chart that you might use as a visual aid for this discussion.

What is chapter 1 about?

Verses 1-2
Paul and Timothy—servants
To saints

Verses 3-11
Paul's prayer and affection in Christ for the Philippians

Verses 12-26
His circumstances

- In prison
- The gospel still being proclaimed

Paul's attitude toward life—to live is Christ

Verses 27-30
Instructions to have a certain conduct, one worth of Christ's gospel
—standing firm in one spirit, striving together / side by side with one mind

Call to unity when being opposed
Suffering and opposition are part of salvation.

Chapter 2, verses 1-4
Continuation about unity and conduct worthy of Christ's gospel in opposition or suffering
Do nothing from selfishness / selfish ambition or empty conceit / conceit.

With humility of mind regard / count others more important / significant than self.
Look out for others' interests as well as your own.

Verses 5-11

Have Christ's attitude or mind of humility. He became a servant, obedient to death.

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30

Verses 12-13

How do these verses begin? Ask what your group learned from their study of these verses.

“So then / Therefore”

There is a chart at the end of this lesson's guide which you might use here as a visual aid.

The command to “work out” is connected with all he said before in this letter.

“work out”—*katergazomai*—“to bring about, accomplish, to carry out a task until it is finished”¹

With fear and trembling

fear—*phobos*—“reverence, respect, honor”²

It is God who is at work in believers.

God began the good work and will perfect, complete it, 1:6.

He works within believers.

Then believers work out to completion what He began and works in.

God is at work within both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

to will—*thelo*—“To will, wish, desire, implying active volition and purpose”³

to work—*energeo*—“To be at work, to be effective, operative”⁴

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G2716.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G5401.

³ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G2309.

⁴ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G1754.

He is the energizer.

He puts the desire in a believer's heart to do His will, to live righteously, and then, He does it for His good pleasure.

He gives the desire and the Holy Spirit's presence accomplishes His will.

Verse 12 shows the believer's responsibility to obey and rely on the Holy Spirit.
Verse 13 shows God's sovereignty.

Relate Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19 to what your group has discussed so far.

Don't grieve the Holy Spirit.

lupeo—"to cause pain or grief, to distress"⁵

Don't quench the Holy Spirit.

sbennumi—"to extinguish; ...to suppress, stifle"⁶

Give time for them to discuss what would grieve or quench the Spirit.

Verses 14-16

How does the command in verse 14 relate to verses 12-13?

When believers work out what God works within, there is no reason for grumbling or disputing—it's God's will.

grumbling—*goggusmos*—"a muttering, murmuring"⁷
"complaint, a whispering, grumbling talk in private"⁸

disputing—*dialogismos*—"a reasoning"⁹; discussion, doubt"¹⁰

According to the cross-references, how seriously does God take grumbling?

Jude

The ungodly are described as grumblers, fault-finders / malcontents.

⁵W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1996). 2:281.

⁶James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996). G4570.

⁷Thomas, R. L. 1998, 1981. *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries: Updated edition.* Foundation Publications, Inc.: Anaheim, G1112.

⁸James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), DBLG 1198.

⁹Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G1261.

¹⁰Gerhard Kittel, Gerhard Friedrich and Geoffrey William Bromiley, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament Abridged in One Volume* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 1995, c1985). 155.

Numbers 13:16–14:38

Israel grumbled when the ten spies brought back a bad report before entering the promised land. Because of that, the ten spies died by a plague and all of Israel twenty and older were sentenced to die in the wilderness, except Caleb and Joshua.

Hebrews 3:17-19

The people of Israel who grumbled and were killed in the wilderness were not believers.

1 Corinthians 10:6-11

These things were written for our learning, so we wouldn't do them.
Grumbling is listed with other sins worthy of death.

What are the results in Philippians 2:15-18?

Believers prove who they are, even in the midst of a crooked and perverse society—opponents in 1:28. They appear / shine as lights in the world.

There is no proof of right conduct, righteousness, or light if believers grumble and complain like the world.

Believers are to hold fast (ESV—to) the word of life.

epechō—“to hold fast, to hold toward”¹¹

Paul will have reason to glory. (ESV says Paul may be proud he didn't run or labor in vain.)

When did Paul say he would have reason to glory / be proud?

In the day of Christ

Ask what your group learned about the day of Christ.

Philippians 1:6, God will complete (perfect) His work of salvation in believers until then.

Philippians 1:9-10, Paul prayed for the Philippians to approve the excellent things so they will be sincere / pure and blameless in that day.

1 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 3:12-13; 5:23; 1 John 3:1-3

The day of Christ is connected with believers being confirmed blameless before the Lord.

God is faithful and will confirm, sustain daily, make blameless, sanctify entirely / completely, until the time when Jesus Christ comes and salvation is perfected in all believers.

¹¹ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G1907.

Philippians 2:16 and 2 Corinthians 1:12-14

It's a time when Paul will glory over his people, a time when believers rejoice over people in their lives, over those who have been won to Christ through the gospel.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

How does verse 17 relate to verse 16?

A drink offering was the last part of a sacrifice / sacrificial offering.

Paul's life was poured out as a drink offering on the Philippians' sacrifice / sacrificial offering and service of faith.

Exodus 29:38-41 and Numbers 15:1-10

Wine was either poured on or in front of the offering.

It would evaporate and cause a soothing / pleasing aroma to God.

He poured out his life for the gospel like Christ poured out His life.
His life was one of total self-emptying like Christ.

Paul wanted his service and ministry to them to count for something.

He spent himself furthering the gospel and he would have cause to glory or be proud if they were holding fast the word of life.

The result for all is rejoicing, a sharing of joy among believers.

Verses 19-30

Who and what are these verses about? Use the chart in the lesson as a visual aid.

Timothy

Paul was going to send Timothy to the Philippians so he might bring back to him a report about their spiritual and physical condition.

Timothy was described as a kindred spirit with / like Paul.

He was genuinely concerned for the Philippians' welfare.
The Philippians knew of his proven worth.

He served Paul in the gospel like a son serving his father.

Epaphroditus

Paul's brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier.

The Philippians' messenger and minister to Paul, sent by them to Paul.

When he became so sick he almost died, he was concerned about his brothers in Philippi who heard about it.

Paul sent him back to Philippi when he recovered so all might rejoice.

He was a man to be held in high regard (ESV—to be honored).

He risked his life for the work of Christ.

To end this discussion, you can ask your group how their lives compare with Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus in having Christ’s attitude / mind of humility and selflessness.

How can they work on this or how can they let Christ work this in them?

God	Believers
<p>Began the good work</p> <p>Works in to will to work His good pleasure</p>	<p>Work out your salvation with fear and trembling</p> <p>Do all without grumbling or disputing</p>

**PHILIPPIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6**

Lesson emphasis

- Philippians 3
- Confidence in the flesh

REVIEW

Tell your group to look at their At A Glance charts. Ask about the main points of Philippians.

Paul wrote from prison to the Philippians, who had opposition, that they were to rejoice in the Lord always.

- 1 Paul rejoiced in prison because Christ was proclaimed
- 2 He called the Philippians to make his joy complete / complete his joy by having the same mind, Christ's attitude of humility

PHILIPPIANS 3

How did Paul begin this chapter?

Finally, my brethren / brothers, rejoice in the Lord.
And then he said it was no trouble for him to write the same things.
What he wrote was a safeguard for them and for believers now.

Verses 2-3

What's the warning in these verses? Why did Paul need to give such a warning?

Paul instructed them to beware of (ESV—look out for) dogs, evil workers and false circumcision (ESV—those who mutilate the flesh), which might be three descriptions of the same people.

These might refer to the opponents in Philippians 1:28. This description seems to be about some Judaizers who were in Philippi or who had gone through there.

The Philippian saints needed to be alert, watching.

Paul warned them to beware of / look out for the false circumcision (ESV—those who mutilate the flesh).

Then used himself as a contrast: one of the true circumcision—a believing Jew.

Worship in the Spirit of God
Glory in Christ Jesus
Put no confidence in the flesh

NOTE: When Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy took the gospel to Philippi, there was no synagogue there, the conclusion being that there were only a few Jews there at that time, if any. But by the time Paul wrote this letter, about 10 years later, it seems that the Judaizers had made their way to Philippi.

Verses 4-11

How did Paul warn against putting confidence in the flesh? What kinds of things are listed in verses 4-6?

Direct your group to their chart in the lesson on Day Three as visual aid for this part of your discussion.

“Confidence in the flesh” is repeated in these verses.
These things had to do with Paul’s Jewish heritage and accomplishments.

Circumcised the 8th day

Ask your group what they learned about this from their study.

Circumcision is cutting around or cutting away the foreskin flesh on a male body.

Genesis 17

God Himself instituted this as the sign of His covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Every male, including slaves and foreigners in Abraham’s household, was to be circumcised. Whoever was not circumcised was to be cut off because he had broken God’s covenant.

Abraham obeyed God. He, at age 99, and his son Ishmael, who was 13, and every man in his household was circumcised that same day.

Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3-13

These passages say Abraham believed God and was counted as righteous before he was circumcised.

Romans 2:25-29

Circumcision is only valuable if one keeps the whole law, no transgression.
If one breaks one part of the law, then all is broken.

True circumcision is of the heart by the Spirit, not the letter of the Law.
A true Jew is one inwardly, not outwardly.

Circumcision of the heart is a personal relationship with the Lord, and He does the circumcision.

What might be a modern parallel to this ritual of circumcision?

Baptism
It's a sign of what takes place spiritually.
The rite itself does not save a person.

What is next in Paul's list of what he might have put confidence in?

Of the nation / people of Israel
Of the tribe of Benjamin
A Hebrew of Hebrews

Paul was born a Jew; he wasn't a proselyte. He was part of Israel. That was his heritage.

Parallels for "Christians" might be:

Being born in a so-called Christian nation or home or denomination
Attending, being a member of a certain church or denomination

What else might Paul have put confidence in?

As to the law, a Pharisee

Paul was part of the strict sect of Judaism. These men knew and studied the Law.

As to zeal, a persecutor of the church
As to the righteousness which is in (ESV—under) the Law, found blameless

Compare this with Romans 2:25.
Paul said he was blameless when it came to the Law.
He outwardly conformed to the Law.

Give time for your group to discuss application of these points.

How do these things relate to the command to rejoice in the Lord and put no confidence in the flesh?

Ask your group about the question from the lesson: If God asked you why He should let you into heaven, what would you say? Give time for discussion.

What is the contrast in verse 7?

Paul counted those things, the things in verses 4-6, as loss for Christ's sake in view of the surpassing value / worth of knowing Christ Jesus his Lord.

He counted all things, including that which was gain to him and his status, as loss. This was an action he did in the past and continued to do even as he wrote this letter to his beloved brethren.

He gave up what seemed good in the eyes of the world to gain Christ. In those things, he actually suffered loss, but his gain would be Christ and experiencing the power of Christ in his life. He called those things rubbish, that which was thrown to the dogs.

Knowing Christ far surpasses any religious heritage or deed.
The contrast is surpassing value to rubbish.

Righteousness of one's own derived from the Law = rubbish.

Philippians 3:4-6

Before Paul was saved, he had a righteousness based on keeping the Law.
It came from and was a source of confidence in the flesh.

Righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith in Christ = value.

Philippians 1:9-11

The fruit of righteousness is part of salvation in Christ Jesus.

Paul's focus, his goal, was knowing Christ.

How did Paul continue his thought in verses 8-11?
Why did he count all loss, what was his desire?

- to gain Christ
- to be found in Him
- to know Him
- to know the power of His resurrection
- to know the fellowship of His sufferings (ESV—share his sufferings)
 - being conformed to His death (ESV—becoming like him in his death)

That he may attain to the resurrection from the dead

NOTE: Most of these things will be studied in the next lesson so discuss the main points, and don't try to answer all questions. Let your group discover for themselves.

Verses 12-16

Ask what they learned in these verses about Paul.

His focus, his mindset, his attitude was “one thing I do . . . I press on.”

Relate this to Philippians 1:21.

He had not already obtained what he desired.

He was not already perfect, but he pressed on to lay hold of that for which he was laid hold of by Christ Jesus (ESV—to make it his own, because Christ Jesus made him his own).

Christlikeness, maturing in Christ

1:20 Paul’s desire was that Christ be exalted / honored in his body.

1:21 Paul said to live is Christ, to die is gain.

2:5-8 Having the attitude / mind of Christ, humility, obedience

3:10 Knowing Him and being conformed to (ESV—being like him in) His death

Verses 15-16 are about believers growing to maturity

God will reveal if one has a different attitude (ESV—thinks otherwise) from what he should have.

Paul exhorted—keep living by that same standard (ESV—hold true) to which we’ve attained (ESV—what we’ve attained).

Verses 17-21

What are the exhortations or instructions and warnings?

Join in following my example / imitate me.

Observe / keep your eyes on those who walk according to the pattern / example you have in us.

Watch how mature believers live.

There is a warning about the enemies of Christ, His cross.

There are those who desire to live for this life.

End is destruction

God is appetite / belly

Glory is in shame

Set minds on earthly things

The chapter began with a warning, 3:2, regarding the dogs, evil workers / evildoers and false circumcision (ESV—those who mutilate the flesh).

Then it ends with those who are enemies, living for this world.

What are the warnings for believers now?

Don't put confidence in the flesh

Don't live in the past; count all loss to pursue knowing Christ.

Don't live for this world.

Beware of / look out for the religious and the shameful.

Why?

Our citizenship is in heaven . . . wait for the Savior

We'll have a transformed body in conformity to / like Christ's.

**PHILIPPIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7**

Lesson emphasis

- Philippians 3:10-21
- Knowing Christ

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you might ask your group again what the main theme of Philippians is and those of the first three chapters.

Rejoice in the Lord always

1—Paul, in prison, rejoiced that Christ was proclaimed

2—Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, Christ's mind of humility

3—Beware / Look out, put no confidence in flesh; count all loss to know Christ

Also, review why it was written.

Paul wrote this letter of encouragement, warning, and thanks to a church suffering opposition.

As your group discusses some of the main points about the attitude / mindset Paul described in chapter 3, you can note them on a visual aid. See the last page of this lesson's guide for an example. Encourage your group to evaluate if these points describe their lives.

Ask what they remember as the main points from 3:1-10.

This chapter is primarily a warning for the Philippians and all believers

Beware of / look out for those who

- are not the true circumcision,
- do not worship in the Spirit of God,
- do not glory in Christ Jesus,
- put confidence in the flesh.

Paul had been one who put confidence in the flesh, his religious heritage and deeds—his righteousness based on the Law.

Then he contrasted that with the righteousness which comes through faith in Christ. That's the righteousness he desired.

And all believers should follow his example in desiring to know Christ more and more in Christian growth.

Paul then contrasted what he counted as loss for the surpassing value of knowing Christ. Basically, he counted all in his life as loss when compared with Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-21

Verses 10-11

According to verse 10 what three things did Paul want to know? As the answers come, discuss what your group learned about each one.

Him, Christ

Paul wanted to know the Lord Jesus Christ above all else.

A believer has to be in God's Word to get to know Him.
Encourage your group that they're doing this.

And believers need to apply what they learn from His Word.

The more one experiences Christ's presence and life through himself, the more he knows Him.

It is one thing to know about Christ and be able to talk about Him and the Word. It's another to trust Him, to have a personal knowledge, a personal relationship with Him.

The power of His resurrection

Paul wanted to know this power.

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is in every believer.
The power of new life. Compare this with 1:2-23.

The fellowship of (ESV—may share) His sufferings

fellowship/ share—*koinōnía*—"to share in . . . participation"¹

This word is translated "participation / partnership" in Philippians 1:5.
The Philippians participated in the gospel with Paul.

It's also used in Philippians 2:1; fellowship / participation in the Spirit.

In 3:10 it can refer to joint participation in sufferings on this earth, not only the cross.

The Philippians were suffering opposition as 1:28-30 says.
Paul was in prison.

¹Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G2842.

The rest of verse 10 says, “being conformed to His (ESV—becoming like him in his) death.”

conformed—*summorphos*—“having the same form as another, similar, conformed to”²

Paul died daily to his own desires and deeds; he counted all as loss . . . and he was willing to physically die for the cause of Christ.

It seems that suffering for Christ’s sake helps believers get to know Him in an experiential way (1:29).

According to verse 11, why these things of verse 10?

To attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Spiritually Paul was dead to all he was in his old life and to his desires and alive to Christ. Physical death would bring a physical resurrection from the dead.

NOTE: Your group might read conflicting interpretations about this. In this context, both a spiritual and physical death and resurrection could fit. Don’t lose time in debate on this.

You might ask your group to consider how this relates to being complete in the day of Christ.

God will continue the good work He began in believers, perfecting it until the day of Christ.

When we receive our resurrected bodies, we’ll no longer sin—spiritual and physical perfection based on God’s work in us through Christ, the completion of our salvation.

Verses 12-16

Ask how verse 12 relates to verse 11.

Paul had not obtained it / this nor become perfect.

perfect—*teleioo*—“complete, mature”³

What did Paul do?

He pressed on (pursued⁴) to lay hold of / make his own that completion, perfect Christlikeness.

²James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G4832.

³Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G5048.

⁴James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G1377.

- conformity to Christ
- knowing Him
- doing nothing from selfishness or empty conceit
- regarding others as more important
- having the attitude of Christ
- being conformed to His death
- looking, acting, thinking like Christ

According to verses 13-14, how many things did Paul focus on?

One thing

Forgetting what's behind

The things he used to put confidence in

Reaching / straining forward to what's ahead

Pressing on toward the goal for the prize

Give time for your group to discuss application.

How do verses 15-16 relate to these things?

In this verse, Paul seemed to contradict what he said in verse 12, that he was not yet perfect. But there is no contradiction. Here he states that he and others are perfect, spiritually “mature,” though he said the process isn't completed yet—he's pressing on.

The mature are to have the same attitude / think this way—pressing on to that upward call.

“mindset”⁵; “to have understanding, to think”⁶

If not, then God will reveal it to them . . . they are pressing on in Him.

Ask your group to think about the maturity level they've reached. Are they living according to it and pressing on to become more complete or mature in Christ?

Verses 17-21

What are the instructions (imperatives) in verse 17? Compare them with the cross-references.

Join in following Paul's example / imitating him

⁵Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G5426.

⁶Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G5426.

Observe / keep your eyes on others who live according to the same pattern / example, such as Timothy and Epaphroditus.

1 Corinthians 4:14-17; 11:1 and 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7

Paul followed Christ; there was proof of who he was in Christ.

The Thessalonians imitated Paul's example and then became examples themselves. Timothy followed Christ and was sent to the Corinthians as an example to them.

What's the contrast in verses 18-19?

Those following the pattern /example
and
Enemies of the cross of Christ

Ask what the cross-references say about the cross.

Matthew 10:34-39

True disciples take up their cross of death to self to follow the Lord.

Luke 14:25-35

Jesus' followers are to count the cost—death to self.

Romans 6:1-14

Believers died with Christ, dead to self, and rise to walk in new life.

Galatians 2:19-21

Believers are crucified with Him—Christ living in the believer, a life of faith in Him.

Life in Christ is counting all else as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Him.

How are the enemies described?

- end is destruction
 - god is appetite / belly
 - glory is their shame
 - set minds on earthly things
- They take pride in the things they should be ashamed of.

What are verses 20-21 about?

Believers are citizens of heaven, not earth; therefore, they have an upward mindset, eagerly waiting for Jesus' return.

Ask your group if they're eagerly waiting for Jesus to return. Why, or why not?

What will happen when He does?

He'll transform believers' bodies in conformity with His.

You might end your discussion by asking your group if they have "this attitude / mindset," having them look at the list on the visual aid.

If believers have this attitude, they can call others to follow their example, because they are following Christ.

Have this attitude / think this way

Rejoice in the Lord

No confidence in the flesh

Know Him

the power of His resurrection

the fellowship of / share His sufferings

conformed to / becoming like him in His death

Press on for the prize

**PHILIPPIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8**

Lesson emphasis

- Philippians 4:4-7
- Don't be anxious

REVIEW

To begin this discussion ask your group what the main theme of Philippians is and the chapter themes.

Rejoice in the Lord always

1—Paul, in prison, rejoiced that Christ was proclaimed

2—Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, Christ's attitude of humility

3—Beware / Look out; put no confidence in the flesh; count all loss to know Christ

4—Don't be anxious, think on these things, learn to be content

Also, review why it was written.

Paul wrote this letter of encouragement, warning, and thanks to a church suffering opposition.

PHILIPPIANS 4

How does this chapter begin? What was Paul's attitude toward the Philippians?

Paul longed for them as in 1:8.

He referred to them as his beloved brethren (ESV—brothers whom he loved).

Here he called them his joy and crown.

Then he told them to stand firm in the Lord.

Who and what did he address in verses 2-3?

Again Paul encouraged unity in the body of Christ.

Euodia and Syntyche had shared Paul's struggle (ESV—labored side by side with him) in the cause of the gospel.

They were fellow workers whose names are in the book of life. They were believers.

If people follow Philippians 2:1-8 (united in Spirit, humility, looking out for the interests of others), they'll live in harmony.

Paul urged his true comrade / companion, an unidentified person, to help them.
Then he mentioned Clement by name in this exhortation for harmony and brotherly help
in the church.

Verses 4-7

What are the instructions?

- Rejoice in the Lord always
- Let your gentle spirit / reasonableness be known to all
- Be anxious for nothing / don't be anxious about anything
- Let your requests be made known to God

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Ask your group what they remember that Paul rejoiced about, from all of Philippians.

He rejoiced because

God will complete the work He began
The gospel was being proclaimed
Christ was his life
One day his body would be transformed into conformity with Christ's body

Let your gentle spirit / reasonableness be known to all men / everyone.

Ask what they learned from the word studies about this instruction.

gentle—"gracious"¹; "being satisfied with less than one's due, sweet reasonableness"²

Tolerance or reasonableness is much preferred to impatience in all situations.
A proper or gracious spirit is beneficial for all to see.

Why did Paul command to let your gentle spirit / reasonableness be made known?

The Lord is near / at hand.

Some commentators say this means His coming back is near.
Others say it means He is close at hand, nearby, and in all believers.

In all circumstances, just and unjust, He is near to His own.

¹ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible societies, 1996, c1989). 1:748.

²Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, c1984). Php 4:5.

Be anxious for nothing / do not be anxious about anything

Ask what your group learned about this from word studies and how it can be applied to their lives.

anxious—“worry . . . be concerned”³; “to have a distracting care”⁴

Don’t be overly concerned.
Don’t have distracting cares.

He who began the good work will complete it.

Many times people worry, are anxious about something that is only a possibility.

What’s the contrast in the next few words?

But in everything

Do what? How is it possible not to be anxious about anything?

Let your requests be made known to God

How?

With prayer—“describes a believer’s approach to God”⁵

With supplication—“a wanting, a need . . . an asking, entreaty”⁶

With thanksgiving

The requests are the things asked for.

Although God knows everything about our lives and everything in our lives and our circumstances, we are still to let our requests be made known to Him. This helps believers focus in the right place.

What is the result or the promise of verses 4-6?

The peace of God will guard (“keep watch over, protect”⁷) your hearts and minds.

³James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). DBLG 3534.

⁴W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1996). 2:89.

⁵John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck and Dallas Theological Seminary, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983-c1985). 2:663.

⁶W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:481.

⁷Barclay Moon Newman, *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 195.

God's peace surpasses all understanding. It's peace of heart and mind, preventing worry and anxiety.

Pray, ask, trust—in everything.

How does 2 Chronicles 20 relate to these verses?

A multitude from Moab, Ammon, and Edom were coming against Jehoshaphat (king of Judah) to war against him. He was afraid.

But because Jehoshaphat knew God's promises and character, he turned his attention (ESV—set his face) to seek Him. It was a deliberate choice of his will.

What did he know about God and His promises that related to his situation?

God is the ruler of all nations. Power and might are in God's hands. God gave Israel, not the other nations, the land of Judah.

Focusing on God's character and word helped Jehoshaphat not focus on his situation—the multitude facing him, wanting to destroy him.

He was powerless and he knew it, but his God is not. Jehoshaphat led all Judah to seek and worship God in the midst of opposition.

Let your group discuss how they can apply these truths from Philippians and Chronicles to their lives. How might believers today know what God is like, His character?

By doing the very thing your group is doing—studying the Word of God.

What did the Lord tell the king and the people?

Don't fear; the battle is not yours. The battles are always His, not ours. Then in verse 17, He told them to go out to face the multitude / go out against them. The Lord is with you—the Lord is near, Philippians says.

When did God act in 2 Chronicles 20?

Verses 21-22, Jehoshaphat told them what to do (sing and praise) and when they began singing and praising, then the Lord set ambushes against their enemies.

What happened next?

The enemies began killing each other until they were all dead. Judah didn't have to fight, just stand and see the salvation of the Lord.

It took Judah three days to take all the spoil because there was so much.

What was the result in verses 27-30?

Rejoicing, peace / quiet and rest

Compare this with Philippians 4.

How does this compare with the story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17:31-51?

Both experienced impossible situations. However, David was just a youth at this time.

He had killed lions and bears and he trusted the Lord to take care of this giant also because Goliath was taunting God and His army.

David went before Goliath in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. His confidence was in the name of the Lord.

David trusted the Lord to deliver up Goliath so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. He would not use sword or spear, because the battle was the Lord's.

Ask how this relates to Philippians 4:4-6.

Paul rejoiced in the Lord, knew the Lord was near, and worshiped by his words and actions. He trusted the Lord of hosts.

Goliath mocked David, but David absolutely trusted God.

David knew God and what God wanted.

It is interesting that Goliath fell forward instead of backwards. Could it be that God pushed him over? After all, the battle is the Lord's.

Give time for your group to share what they learned from the other cross-references in the lesson.

Psalm 33:16-22

God is our hope, help, and shield.

We're to fear Him, not others.

The believer's responsibility is to wait and rejoice in Him.

He's our deliverer.

According to the verses of Day Four, what is the believer's responsibility?

Cast our burdens on the Lord.

Trust in Him.

Don't fear or anxiously look around / be dismayed.

Seek first His kingdom and righteousness. Don't worry / be anxious.

Humble yourselves under His mighty hand. Cast all anxiety on Him.

Why?

He cares for us.
He'll keep us in perfect peace.
He'll strengthen us and uphold us.
He's redeemed us . . . we are His; He's with us always.
He's our helper Who will never desert us.

Ask someone to summarize the cure for worry.

Now lead your discussion back to the text of Philippians 4.

Verses 8-9

What's his next instruction? How does it relate to the previous verses?

Dwell on / think about these things—true, honorable, right / just, pure

If one's mind is dwelling on / thinking about these things, that one won't be anxious.

Ask about the last in this series of instructions and relate this to 3:17.

Practice the things you've learned, received, heard, and seen in me.

The result will be that the God of peace will be with them.

He had told them to follow his example and the example of others who walk in the same pattern he did.

What do verses 7-9 say about God?

The peace of God guards and the God of peace will be with you.

Verses 10-14

What are these verses about?

The Philippians were concerned about Paul, and then had opportunity to give him a gift toward his support.

While he thanked them, he also told them that he had learned to be content.

He had learned to be content in humble means / brought low or prosperity / abundance because he had learned the secret of being filled / facing plenty and going hungry—abundance and need.

He "learned" this. His contentment was not automatic.

Ask your group if they want to learn contentment.

Christ was his answer. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Verses 15-23

What are these verses are about?

Epaphroditus had been the messenger between the Philippians and Paul, 2:25-30.

The Philippians had participated in the gospel from the very first day; they were the only ones that shared with Paul in giving and receiving.

Paul completes the letter by praising God and sending greetings. Even some in Caesar's household sent greetings. They had become believers because of Paul's circumstances—imprisoned for the sake of the gospel.

**PHILIPPIANS
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 9**

Lesson emphasis:

- Philippians 4:8-19
- The mind and contentment
- Giving

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At a Glance charts. Ask what Philippians is about, and give them a brief time to discuss what they remember.

For a visual aid, you may want to list a few brief facts about the topics studied as your class mentions them. See the end of this lesson's guide.

THE MIND

What are the promises from Philippians 4:7 and 9?

God's peace will guard your hearts and minds.
The God of peace will be with you.

Any conditions for these promises?

Be anxious for nothing / don't be anxious about anything . . . prayer . . . request of God.
Dwell / think on these things and practice them.

What things?

true
honorable
right / just
pure
lovely
good repute / commendable
excellence
worthy of praise

Give time for your group to also discuss any application.

You might ask them what Paul said about “mind” or “attitude” in Philippians.

Philippians 1:27-28

Strive together / side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,
not alarmed / frightened by opponents.

Philippians 2:1-5

Be of the same mind with others—humility, regarding others more important.
Have Christ’s attitude of humility

Philippians 3:15-16

The attitude of the mature in Christ is to keep living by the standard to which one has
attained. If you have a different attitude / think otherwise, God will reveal it to you.
He who began the good work in you will complete it.

Philippians 3:4, 19

Some have the mindset to put confidence in the flesh or set their minds on earthly things.
Believers are cautioned against such.

Ask what they understand about the phrase “dwell on / think about these things.”

This is present tense, so it’s to be a continual action, a habit of the believer’s life.

Ask what the cross-references say about the mind and the heart. What help do these verses give
about controlling the mind or what one thinks?

Proverbs 4:23; 23:7a

Watch over / keep your heart; be diligent, guard carefully what goes into it.
As a man thinks (calculates¹) within, so he is.

Isaiah 26:3; Matthew 9:4; 15:18-20

A protected, established, steady mind will be peaceful. One is able to be steadfast
because he trusts God.

What is put into the heart is what defiles a man, not what is put in his mouth. A person
must be careful about their thought life because what comes out of the mouth is evidence
of what is in the heart.

1 Corinthians 2:16

It is possible to think right because believers have the mind of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Although believers live, walk in the flesh, the present body, we don’t war according to
the flesh. Our weapons are divinely powerful to destroy strongholds.

¹ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*, marginal note (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2001), Pr 23:7.

Destroy speculations / arguments, lofty things / opinions, anything raised up against the knowledge of God. Believers are to take their thoughts captive for obeying Christ.

What is the relationship between thinking right and contentment?

Paul said he learned to be content. Learning to think right is a process as well, but until one thinks right, there is no contentment.

CONTENTMENT

Ask your group what they learned from their study of contentment.

Paul said he learned to be content in all circumstances, Philippians 4:11.

Knowing and understanding God's sovereignty helps one be content.

Hebrews 13:5-6

God will never, ever leave, turn His back on, or forsake any believer.

Romans 8:28 and 1 Corinthians 10:13

God is in charge and He causes all things to work together for good for those who love Him. Every believer is called according to His purpose. That purpose is that we become conformed to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

This was Paul's "one thing" he pressed toward—to be like Christ.

No temptation is unusual or uncommon to man. A trial or temptation can come in many forms but temptation is not uncommon. God is faithful. He will not allow believers to be tempted beyond what they can bear. He will provide the way of escape so they can endure.

Ask how Job 1 and the story of Joseph in Genesis relate to contentment in all circumstances.

When Job's life seemed to fall apart, everything he had gone in one day except his wife, his response was that the Lord gave and the Lord had taken away. He blessed the Lord's name.

Job did not sin or blame God (ESV—charge God with wrong).

Neither did Joseph. Joseph's response to all the injustice he suffered was that people meant it for evil, but God meant it for good. It was in order to preserve His people alive. God's purposes—not his (Genesis 50:20).

There is no record of Joseph grumbling or complaining. He understood all that happened to him was from the Lord.

How do believers live in contentment?

Understanding God's sovereignty

Controlling their thought life—having Christ's attitude

Doing all things through Him who strengthens them

GIVING

How did Paul close his letter to the Philippians? What's the connection between Philippians 4:10-13 and verses 14-20?

Paul had learned to be content in his circumstances—whether abundance or humble situation. The Philippians shared with him what they had.

They shared from the first preaching of the gospel as no other church did in giving and receiving. They even sent more than one gift for him to Thessalonica (Acts 16–17).

Paul wanted blessing for them because they participated in the gospel. He was not looking out for his interests but theirs.

Because they had supplied his needs, he was certain God would take care of them. Verse 19 is not an unconditional promise.

Give time for your group to discuss application of this.

Ask what the cross-references teach about giving.

2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15

The gracious work / act of grace spoken of in 8:7 is giving.

The Corinthians had decided on this gracious work previously. Paul wanted them to carry through with it so needs would be met and so that God would be glorified by their obedience.

Giving was for the needy among believers.

One is to give as he has purposed in his heart—not grudgingly / reluctantly, but cheerfully. Believers are to give according to what they have, not what they don't have.

Another principle of giving in these verses is if one sows sparingly he will reap sparingly. Sow bountifully, reap bountifully.

Christ is the example of giving. He gave His life so that those who believe have eternal life.

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

This passage is still applicable today and the principles are in the New Testament.

Give with a right heart and not expecting a return. God will bless the giver in all his work and undertakings.

Psalm 41:1

The Lord will deliver the one who considers the helpless / poor.

Proverbs 3:27

Do not withhold what is due a person.

Proverbs 11:25

The one who is generous (or waters) will be watered.

Proverbs 25:21-22

Give to enemy

The Lord will reward.

NOTE: Some commentators think people in the time of Proverbs kept their fires going with hot coals which were used to cook and to heat. They carried coals in buckets on their heads. So heaping coals on a person's head was a good thing to do. Others equate the coals with bringing shame on them, leading to repentance. Both interpretations claim the context of doing good to your enemy in both Proverbs 25 and Romans 12. Romans 12 argues for the coals as being a kindness.

Proverbs 28:27

Give to the poor and never want, but the one who closes his eyes to their needs will receive many curses.

Luke 3:11; 1 John 3:17

Share; it shows God's love abides in believers.

Ask what they learned about those who proclaim/preach the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:7-14; Galatians 6:6-10

The person who ministers and preaches the gospel should get his living from that. Those taught are to share with the one who teaches them.

To end your discussion, ask your group how God has used this study in their lives.

The mind	Contentment	Giving and receiving
Dwell / think on these things Practice these things God's peace guard heart and mind	Learn to be content Think right Can do all things through Christ	Share with brothers -in the gospel -fruit increases to your account God glorified supply needs Give to the poor