

Power House Churches

family personal development supernatural lifestyle outflow worship service sacrifice

Bible Study Curriculum: Philippians (8 Weeks)

Week 1: (Philippians Intro Video or message) <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/philippians/>

Week 2: Philippians 1:1-11

1. Several qualities of Paul's spiritual fatherhood are on display in this passage. What are at least three instances of Paul speaking (writing) to them as he would to spiritual sons and daughters?
2. Paul writes that he thanks God in all his remembrance of the Philippians (1:3). How does thankfulness affect our heart posture towards those we are discipling?
3. How have the Philippians participated in the gospel with Paul? (Phil. 1:7, 4:3, 2 Cor. 8:1-4). What do you find in these passages?
4. Paul prays that the Philippians will abound in "real knowledge" (NASB) and discernment," referring to an experiential/intimate form of knowledge beyond merely head knowledge. How does this experiential/intimate knowledge of Christ enable to us to "approve the things that are excellent in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ?" (Or more simply put, to evaluate our lifestyle/actions to determine what is and is not godly.)

Week 3: Philippians 1:11-27

1. Paul rejoices that the gospel is being preached whether from selfish ambition or authentic love. Why does he rejoice rather than rebuke those who proclaim the gospel for selfish gain?
2. In this section, Paul evaluates the two options before him, life or death, and sees both options as bringing glory to the Lord. To live will mean a continuation of Christ working through him to raise, train, and disciple believers, and to die means he will be both living in the presence of Christ and a martyr. How is Paul able to look at the future in this way with hope and joyous expectation? What are the challenges in your life to maintaining this same perspective?
3. Verse 1:27b states, "I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (NASB). What does it mean for us as a church and fellow believers to stand firm in ONE spirit and to strive together with ONE mind? What are practical steps we as a church can take, to move in this direction?
4. What is "the faith of the gospel" for which we are to strive towards furthering as unified believers?

Extra Credit: Paul uses this term “the faith” often in his writings, which is different than simply “faith,” what does it mean?

Week 4: Philippians 2:19-30

1. Describe the relationship between Paul and Timothy in this passage. How can we apply elements of this to our own processes of being disciplined and discipling others?
2. Why does Paul speak so highly of Timothy and Epaphroditus? How do they represent the humility and sacrifice Paul has been talking about up to this point in the chapter?
3. Specifically, how is Timothy an example of healthy obedience and humility?
4. How does Paul exemplify spiritual fatherhood in this passage?

Week 5: Philippians 3:1 - 4:1 (Read 8-21)

1. Paul presses on for that which he was laid hold of by Christ. What is that? (v9-11)
2. Describe Paul’s perspective of “forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead.” What does this mean, and how do we apply this same mindset to our own life?
3. Have you ever experienced an upward call of God in your life? Maybe it included giving up everything and suffering loss like Paul did. Share a story if you can about how you have experienced this and still chosen to move forward in pursuit if God’s calling.
4. This idea of pressing forward seems so important to Paul. Why would a failure to do (or maintain Paul’s perspective) this lead others to become “enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction...?” (18-19).

Week 6: Philippians 4:2-9

1. Paul exhorts the Philippian church twice to rejoice in the Lord always! What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? How do we make this a part of our daily life?

2. Paul states that we are to be anxious for nothing because the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds as we pray and make our requests known to God. Have you experienced this type of peace from the Lord after praying about a difficult/uncomfortable situation? If so, please share. If not, is there a part of your life that is currently stressful that you have not prayed about and received his peace for yet?
3. Verse 8 lists eight things that we are to dwell upon. How do the things we dwell on affect/change us? Are there things you are dwelling on that are not on this list that you should give up dwelling upon?
4. How do you see the peace of God in the world?

Week 7: Philippians 4:10-23

1. Paul writes, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Do you have any experiences of God strengthening you amidst a difficult challenge that was uncomfortable?
2. The Philippians are praised for sharing financially with Paul and giving to support his needs. What responsibility do we have to financially support the spiritual leaders in our lives that the Lord has placed above us?
3. This support was also for Paul in (likely) Rome as he was held under house arrest awaiting trial before Caesar. Where in Acts is Paul's Roman imprisonment recorded? What was he using this financial support to do while under arrest?
4. What is a main theme you have seen throughout this book that has impacted your relationship either with the Lord or others?

Week 8: Philippians Wrap-Up

The Wrap-Up section of this study gives the church/study group the ability to reflect on the key elements of the book we have been studying. There are worksheets that have been created in order for participants to follow along and take notes on key questions. As the leader, be sure to watch this video and read through the document beforehand in order to be prepared this week.

1. Print out the worksheet before the service.
2. When the bible section of the service starts, introduce wrap up and what will be done.
3. Hand out the below worksheet to each person with pens and pencils.
4. Play the Bible Project Philippians introduction video:
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/philippians/>

5. Review the answers with the group, giving time for one or two differing answers before moving on.
6. Allow a time for questions to be asked. Prepare before-hand your answers and thoughts for the section, but also encourage others to answer as well.

Philippians Wrap-Up Worksheet

1. What passage is central to the Letter to the Philippians?
2. How does this letter teach us to reflect the life of Jesus?
3. Who are the two examples Paul gives for the Philippians to imitate?
4. Paul saw his life as a reenactment of what?

Notes:
