



Life Group Study Outline

Philippians: Good News, Great Joy



How to Use This Guide with Your Life Group

- Firstly, the recommended resources are great for you as a leader, if you want to know more about the book of Philippians. You might find some stuff that you share with your group or watch together.
- We encourage you to start by asking people to share their thoughts from the sermon, what stood out to them, etc. Alternatively, read the passage together and then start the discussion from there.
- The discussion questions listed are just a suggestion and just a start. Hopefully they will prompt follow up questions. Use the extra Bible references together when the time is right.

Resources

- Help Me Teach the Bible – podcast ft. John Piper
 - Part One: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/help-me-teach-the-bible/john-piper-on-philippians-part-1/>
 - Part Two: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/help-me-teach-the-bible/john-piper-on-philippians-part-2/>
- Gospel Coalition Bible Study Courses
 - Introduction to the Book: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/philippians-introduction/>
 - Knowing the Book: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowing-bible-philippians/>
- Bible Project
 - Study Philippians: tbp.xyz/philippiansblog
 - Overview: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/philippians/>

1. Philippians 1:1-18 – Joel (May 24)

Sermon

- **Key Idea:** that the proclamation of the gospel is Paul's focus and the need of partnership to ensure this happens. We also see Paul's love for the Philippian church and his confidence in Jesus.

Discussion

- Encourage your group to read through Philippians *before* the meeting. From just reading the letter, what do we learn of Paul's situation and his heart for the church?
- Read through Acts 16, the beginning of Paul's partnership with Timothy, and his ministry in Philippi. This story is incredible, but how does it help shape our understanding of the letter to the Philippians?
- How can we be more focused on the proclamation of the gospel like Paul? How can we be effective partners like the Philippian church?

2. Philippians 1:19-29 – Andrew (May 31)

Sermon

- **Key Idea:** that we are called to respond to the good news by living lives worthy of the gospel.

Discussion

- According to the passage, what does it look like to 'let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel'?
- Are there any clues in the passage as to why suffering 'has been granted to you for the sake of Christ'? Any other bible verses that give us clarification?
- What opponents frighten us when it comes to sharing the gospel? How can we 'stand firm' and keep 'striving side by side for the faith of the gospel'?

3. Philippians 2:1-18 – Glenn (June 7)

Sermon

- **Key Idea:** that we are called to 'shine as lights' amidst a 'crooked and twisted generation'. Ultimately, we follow the example of Christ, but also learn from the example of others.

Discussion

- What examples do you have in your life of people who have shined as lights for Jesus?
- What are the practical implications of the example of Christ given in chapter 2? What does it mean for our everyday lives?
- In this letter we also have the example of Paul (3:17-21) and Timothy & Epaphroditus (2:19-30). What are we to learn from their examples?
- We see a number of times in this letter the element of *future salvation*; that we are awaiting our Saviour and we look forward to when every knee will bow, every tongue will confess. How does this give us hope and courage?

4. Philippians 3:1-16 – Andrew (June 14)

Sermon

- **Key Idea:** that knowing Christ is the ultimate prize that we press on towards.

Discussion

- We are warned to 'look out for the dogs... the evildoers... those who mutilate the flesh'. Who might they have been in Paul's day? What does that mean for us in our day?
Focus of the next verses, putting no confidence in the flesh, gives us a clue
- How does this passage encourage us to 'press on' towards Jesus?
- Do we really believe that knowing Jesus is of surpassing worth?

5. Philippians 4:2-9 – Andrew (July 5)

Sermon

- **Key Idea:** that there are practical things we can do to know Christ more and to share the gospel.

Discussion

- What are the things that Paul encourages us to 'practice' in these verses?
- Why is the language of 'practice' helpful?
- Why is important for us to remember in our 'practice' that 'the Lord is at hand', 'the God of peace will be with you', and He will 'guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'.

6. Philippians 4:10-23 – Joel (July 12)

Sermon

- **Key Idea:** that we can learn to be content in any situation

Discussion

- Think of different situations in your life where Philippians 4:13 has been quoted. How does understanding the context of the passage and of Paul change how we interpret this verse?
- Do you experience this sort of contentment in your life? How can we learn to be more content?
- We don't just leave people, saying God will give them strength – we step in and support; this is a 'fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God'. How can we support people in our life group / church / community better?
- Yet we remain confident that 'God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus'. How do we keep this tension? How do we keep our confidence in God, and not in our ability to solve problems or issues?