

PHILIPPIANS

Jesus: Our Reason to Live

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

Hey friends! Let's get going with our 12-week summer study of Philippians!

What you'll need:

1. Print this study guide.
2. Print the **"How to Study Your Bible"** bookmark (link in email). You can fold it in half and tuck it into your bible for easy reference. For this study I will direct you to the four basic questions on the front: **"Open Your Bible and Talk to God."** *But by all means go deeper if you can with the Inductive Bible Study questions on the other side!*
3. Grab your Bible (*a physical one, with paper pages*), a spiral bound notebook or journal, a pen, pencil, and highlighter. **I've provided a little room for answers in this study guide, but you'll likely need your notebook or journal to capture more!*
4. Pick a time and place—push aside your phone and any other distractions and enjoy your time in the Word with Jesus. Shoot for 20-30 minutes of study time a day. *If you can do more...GREAT!*

In Week 1 we will explore the **backstory** and do an **overview** reading of the book. For each of the following 11 weeks you'll have a short portion of scripture to read and study. The questions I've written will guide you to look for things in your study that will point you to God, get personal application from the passage, and help you dialogue with God as you read. Take your time with the passage of scripture and read it several times over the course of the week. Try reading it in different translations, look up unfamiliar words in the concordance (in the back of your bible), think it through, and pray it out with God. Record your responses and thoughts in your notebook!

- ALSO- be sure **join me weekly on Instagram LIVE** as I "Sum It Up!" Each week, I'll review the passage of Scripture for the Philippians study and answer your questions about it. Day and time are TBD - follow @punkytolson on Instagram to join in on the fun!

OK! Let's get started!

Week 1: Greetings and Grace to You!

Philippians 1:1-2

This first week will cover *a lot*—so hang in there as we dig into the backstory and read through the entire epistle. Start by reading just the first two verses, paying close attention to every word.

OVERVIEW

- ***Who wrote Philippians?***
 - How does Paul describe himself and Timothy (the young man he was discipling)? What does that tell you about them?

- ***Who is the letter written to?***
 - ***How does Paul refer to them?***

 - ***What greeting does he send to the Philippians?***

- ***Where are we?***
 - Look at the maps in your bible (usually in the back) and locate Philippi. The map should show the New Testament Roman Empire or Paul's Missionary Journeys. You'll see it located in Macedonia, northeastern Greece, on the Aegean Sea near Thessalonica.

- ***What's the back story?***

Paul spent a significant amount of time ministering in Philippi and planted the church there on his second missionary journey in approximately A.D. 49–51. He passed through again briefly on his third missionary journey (Acts 20:1–3). Paul wrote this “epistle” (letter) to the Philippian church in A.D. 62 while in prison in Rome.

Read Acts 16 and record the significant events that happened in Philippi and the people involved.

READ THROUGH:

Now that you have the background, **do a cursory readthrough of all 4 chapters of Philippians** in one sitting—it should take you about 15 minutes.

- What are some of the reasons Paul was writing to the Philippians? What themes do you notice?
- What words do you see repeated?
- What verses stood out to you? Write out 2 or 3 of them in your notebook.
- What part of Philippians spoke to you the most in this first readthrough?
- What did you learn about God?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- What one takeaway will you obey and how, *specifically*, will you live it out?

Week 2: Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer

Philippians 1:3-11

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 1:3-11 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions:

Week 3: Paul's Joy that Christ is Preached

Philippians 1:12-18

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 1:12-18 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions:

Week 4: Paul's Joy in Living for Christ

Philippians 1:19-26

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 1:19-26 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions:

Week 5: Living as Citizens of Heaven

Philippians 1:27-30

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 1:27-30 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions:

Week 6: Humility: Living with the Attitude of Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 2:1-11 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions:

Week 7: Living as Lights in the World

Philippians 2:12-18

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 2:12-18 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions:

Week 8: Paul Commends Timothy & Epaphroditus

Philippians 2:19-30

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 2:19-30 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions:

Week 9: The Priceless Value of Knowing Christ

Philippians 3:1-11

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 3:1-11 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions:

Week 10: Pressing on Toward the Goal

Philippians 3:12-21

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 3:12-21 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions:

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 4:1-9 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions:

Week 12: Thankfulness for God's Provision & Final Greetings

Philippians 4:10-23

READ THE PASSAGE: Read Philippians 4:10-23 through a few times.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Ask: Lord, who are You?

What do these Scriptures tell you about God?

Ask: Lord, who am I?

What do these Scriptures show you about yourself?

Ask: Lord, help me to obey your Word.

What do these Scriptures tell you to do?

Respond: Lord, today I will...

What did you learn? How will you respond to what you've just read and studied? What takeaway will you try to live out this week? Be specific in how you will apply it to your life, relationships, and circumstances.

What verse stood out to you? Write it out, repeat it out loud, and pray it throughout the week.

What spoke to you most personally in this passage? Why?

What was your God moment? (Something new or different you noticed about God's character.)

Additional thoughts and questions: