

# PHILIPPIANS

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## THIS READING PLAN IS FOR YOU

The apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians from a prison cell. He wrote to teach the Philippians what he had learned about how to have joy in all circumstances, even in the midst of suffering. This message is extremely relevant to us today. How do we think about the sufferings and hardships in our lives? Where is God in all of this? As Christians, how should we respond? How do we live in a world that is not our home? Philippians answers these questions and much, much more!

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## THE FORMAT OF THE READING PLAN WILL BE AS FOLLOWS—

### READ—

When we read the Bible, we are not just reading man's thoughts about God. Neither are we merely reading what God said (a few thousand years ago). Rather what we are reading is what God says in the present tense (Hebrews 3:7). For the Word of God is living and active, and when we read it God Himself is speaking to us (Hebrews 4:12). Therefore, read each passage slowly, carefully, and attentively to every word acting as if the most important being in the universe is speaking to you, because He is.

### REFLECT—

Simply reading the Word is like briskly walking by a warm fire on a cold night. But meditation is like sitting by the warm fire so that it lights up your face and warms your bones. (Don Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*). Therefore, pick a verse from each section to meditate on. What does it mean? What does it say about God? What does it say about you? You can pick any verse. But we will suggest a verse each time in case you have trouble picking one.

### RESPOND—

We do not want to just be passive readers of the Word and allow what God says to go “in one ear and out the other.” Rather we want to be like the blessed man from psalm one who delights in God's word and meditates/chews on/murmurs to himself/thinks over what God has said day and night (Psalm 1:3). These discussion questions are designed to help us think over what the Lord has said, and as we think and discuss the Lord will give us understanding (2 Timothy 2:7).

### PRAY—

Pray to your Father that the Holy Spirit would empower the Word of Christ to become true in your hearts, your lives, this church, and this world as it is in heaven. Pray the Word back to God. For he always answers us when we pray according to his will (1 John 5:14). And the best way to pray according to his will is to pray His Word!

# DAY 01

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**STUDY THROUGH  
PHILIPPIANS**

**READ—**

Philippians 1:1-18

**REFLECT—**

“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy.”

— Philippians 1:3-4

**RESPOND—**

Does Paul’s love for the church challenge you? How could you express love for someone from our church community today?

Pick one person to call and encourage them with the Word.

And pick two people to pray for.

**PRAY—**

Father, we thank you for Gospel City Church. We pray that you would grow our love for you and for each other. We pray that you would help us to pray. The Spirit is willing, but our flesh is weak, oh Lord. Help us to pray, that our hearts might be filled with the fruits of righteousness, that we might be ready for the return of the Lord Jesus, and that we might bring glory to you, our Father.

# DAY 02

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**STUDY THROUGH  
PHILIPPIANS**

**READ—**

Philippians 1:19-30

**REFLECT—**

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.”  
— Philippians 1:27

**RESPOND—**

Paul did not let his imprisonment stop him from preaching the gospel and living for Christ. What are some things in your life that tend to hinder or threaten you living for Christ? What does it even mean “to live is Christ?” and how can you live like this today?

**PRAY—**

Father, thank you for the Gospel. Thank you for sending your Son. Thank you for the hope that we have in heaven. Help us to live for Christ and help us view death as gain, that we might live a life worthy of your Gospel.

# DAY 03

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**STUDY THROUGH  
PHILIPPIANS**

**READ—**

Philippians 2:1-11

**REFLECT—**

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

— Philippians 2:3

**RESPOND—**

We are told to think of Christ as we obey Paul’s command to consider others more significant than ourselves. In what ways did Christ consider others more significant than himself? And how does He help us obey this command?

**PRAY—**

Father, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for sending him to live the life we could never live, to die the death we deserve to die, and for raising him on the third day that we might love you, love each other, and look forward to the day where every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Christ is King.

# DAY 04

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**STUDY THROUGH  
PHILIPPIANS**

**READ—**

Philippians 2:12-30

**REFLECT—**

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” — Philippians 2:14-15

**RESPOND—**

How is the command to do all things without grumbling or disputing connected with the goal of being a shining light in the world? What are some ways we can shine the light of Jesus right now?

**PRAY—**

Father, we thank you for our salvation. We thank you that the working out of our salvation brings you pleasure. You are such a good, gracious, and loving God. We pray that you would work in us in such a way that our lives would shine the light of Jesus to a dark world.

# DAY 05

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**STUDY THROUGH  
PHILIPPIANS**

**READ—**

Philippians 3:1-11

**REFLECT—**

“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.” — Philippians 3:8

**RESPOND—**

What are some things that you have left behind in order to follow Jesus? How has he proved to be worth more than anything you left behind?

**PRAY—**

Father, forgive us for when we trust in ourselves and not in Jesus. Forgive us for trying to earn our salvation. Forgive us for loving anything in this world more than we love Jesus. Help us to see Jesus as more beautiful and valuable than anything in this world. Help us to forsake everything for the sake of knowing Christ.

# DAY 06

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**STUDY THROUGH  
PHILIPPIANS**

**READ—**

Philippians 3:12-4:3

**REFLECT—**

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.” — Philippians 3:20-21

**RESPOND—**

How does your citizenship in heaven impact the way you live in this world? What are some things about heaven that you are most looking forward to?

**PRAY—**

Father, we thank you that you have given us the Spirit of adoption through the work of your Son, that we might be heirs of the God of the universe and have citizenship in your heaven. Impress upon our hearts the hope of heaven, and help us view this fading world through the lens of your eternal glory. And please send Jesus back quickly. Amen.

# DAY 07

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**STUDY THROUGH  
PHILIPPIANS**

**READ—**

Philippians 4:4-23

**REFLECT—**

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” — Philippians 4:4-6

**RESPOND—**

What commands are given in verses 4-6? What are some practical ways you could live that out this week? And how does the promise in v7 help encourage you to believe that obeying the commands in v4-6 might be possible?

**PRAY—**

Father, help us to rejoice always. Help us to be reasonable with one another. Thank you that you do not leave us alone but are right here with us. Help us to focus on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable so that we can guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Help us to so fill our hearts and minds with your Word that there is no room left for anxious thoughts. Amen.