



# Living for God

A four week group bible study  
through the book of Philippians

Joseph Carroll



# *Living for God*

*A four week study from the book of  
Philippians for believers to do together*

Author: Joseph Carroll

Joseph is one of the pastors at Emmanuel  
Evangelical Church in Erbil

Printed in 2026 in Erbil

Scripture quotations taken from the Holy Bible,

New International Version® (NIV®).

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™

This booklet is available in Kurdish-Sorani on the website [Dilsozi.com](http://Dilsozi.com)



Providing resources to help believers and churches live  
faithfully according to God's word.



## Introduction

Our God calls us to live for him and also help other believers live for God. But how do we do that? This booklet was written to help you do this, meaning to learn to live for Jesus and help fellow believers do the same. I wrote this book to help members of our church have a good resource to use for encouraging one another and strengthening one another as disciples of Christ. This booklet contains a 4 week program based on the book of Philippians. It's not meant to be used alone, but this booklet is intended to be used with a fellow believer or two. I pray this program will bless you and increase your love for God and others.

## Purpose

There are three main purposes of this program:

- 1. Help you learn how to live for Christ and grow as a children Child (Colossians 1:29)**

New believers are described as new creatures. When we are saved we're born again, we are babies in Christ. So each believer must grow to be mature so that we stand before God on the last day as someone who has lived for God. So we hope this study helps you become more mature in Christ and helps you learn how to grow as a Christian.

- 2. Teach you to read the Bible and pray on your own. (2 Timothy 3:16)**

The Lord has given us several ways to grow in our faith. Go to church, participate in the Lord's supper, share the gospel, have fellowship with believers, and regular Bible reading and prayer. This study is designed to help you develop the habit of reading the Bible at home and praying on a daily basis. This is one of the most important things you can do to be strong with Christ. Do you want to hear from God and learn from him? Then read God's word, it's his living message to us. It will protect you from sin and help you know God.

- 3. Teach you to strengthen other believers by meeting with them and reading the Bible and praying together.**

This study is designed to be done with another church member. This will help you get to know another church member well. As you meet with another member to do this study, I hope that you will see how to disciple others by meeting with them to read the Bible, share about life, and pray. It's my prayer that this experience will encourage you and equip you to do the same with others.

## How the program works

According to the schedule of this program, you should meet with another member four times. For example one time each week for four weeks, or according to your availability. After each meeting, there are three lessons that you should do at home before meeting with your friend next time. One of the lessons at home takes about 15 minutes to do. These lessons are designed to teach you how to read your Bible at home on your own, something that each Christian should do regularly. Each of these lessons that you do at home involves scripture readings, questions to answer to help you meditate on what you read, and prayer. I encourage you to actually write down the answers to your questions as writing helps you think carefully about what you read and what you are praying for.

I encourage you to meet with your fellow member once a week. Also, each week, there is a scripture memory verse. So hopefully at the end of this program, you will have memorized 3 verses from the book of Philippians.

## Table of contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| ● Meeting 1 - Acts 16:6-40 .....        | 4  |
| ○ Lesson 1 - Philippians 1:1-11 .....   | 5  |
| ○ Lesson 2 - Philippians 1:12-18 .....  | 8  |
| ○ Lesson 3 - Philippians 1:19-26 .....  | 10 |
| ● Meeting 2 - Philippians 1:27-30 ..... | 12 |
| ○ Lesson 4 - Philippians 2:1-11 .....   | 14 |
| ○ Lesson 5 - Philippians 2:12-18 .....  | 16 |
| ○ Lesson 6 - Philippians 2:19-30 .....  | 18 |
| ● Meeting 3 - Philippians 3:1-11 .....  | 20 |
| ○ Lesson 7 - Philippians 3:12-16 .....  | 22 |
| ○ Lesson 8 - Philippians 3:17-21 .....  | 24 |
| ○ Lesson 9 - Philippians 4:1-9 .....    | 26 |
| ● Meeting 4 - Philippians 4:10-23 ..... | 28 |

# Meeting 1

## The work of God to start the church in Philippi

Acts 16:6-40

### Get to know each other

- Ask about one another's family and work.
- Share about your hardships in life now, and your joys in life now.
- Share your stories of how you came to faith with each other.

### Getting to know Philippians

This program is over the book of Philippians. Philippians is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church in a city called Philippi which is in Greece.

Paul lived during the time of Jesus. He wrote many of the books in the new testament, but he was not of the 12 disciples. He was a devout Jew who used to persecute and oppose Christians. Then Jesus appeared to him and he believed in Jesus. God appointed him as an apostle and Paul became a great evangelist who took the gospel to many places where the gospel had not yet reached. If you want to read about his conversion, you can read about it in Acts 9:1-19.

The book of Acts describes how the disciples of Jesus spread the gospel to other cities and countries after Jesus ascended to heaven. In Acts 16, we're told how the church in Philippi started. A business woman and a jailor and his family all came to faith through Paul when he visited Philippi and preached the gospel. But some people opposed Paul and he was beaten and put in prison. Paul was forced to leave the city because of persecution. However, the people who were saved through his preaching formed together as the church in Philippi. Though Paul's visit to Philippi was short, God used it to form a church.

Years later, Paul was put in prison in Rome for preaching the gospel. From the prison in Rome, Paul wrote this letter to the church in Philippi. The church in Philippi had supported Paul in his work of taking the gospel to the different cities and regions. So generally Paul is writing this letter to thank them for their support and encourage them to continue to live for God. Overall, Paul wrote this letter to the believers in Philippi for these reasons:

- Encourage them to live for Jesus
- Help them continue as Christians in difficult times
- Remind them of the gospel of Jesus
- Instruct them how to live together in unity as disciples of Christ.

### Scripture reading

Read Acts 16:6-40. These verses tell the story of how Paul first visited the city of Philippi and started the church there.

## Questions for discussion

1. What surprises you about the start of the church in Philippi?
2. What were the trials that Paul and the first believers faced in Philippi?
3. How do you see the gospel of Christ in the passage?
4. What trials do you see opposing our church and its growth? What hope do we have of overcoming these obstacles?
5. How do you see fruits of faith and evidence of conversion in the lives of those who came to faith in Philippi?
6. What can you learn from the example of Paul on his trip to Philippi that you would like to apply in your life?

## Pray together

Before you pray, ask one another how you can pray for one another. Also discuss how you can pray for our church.

Now pray together. Each person should pray, not only one person.

## Memory verse

Philippians 1:6. being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

## What's next?

Do the next three lessons on your own at home and then meet again to discuss meeting 2.

## Suggestion

Read the entire book of Philippians this week in one sitting. It only takes about 15 minutes. Before you start reading a book in small parts over many days, it's good, if possible, to read it at one time so you get an idea of the main ideas of the whole book. Then as you read and study each part in more detail, you will better understand how those parts fit with the message of the whole book.

# Lesson 1

## Thanksgiving and praying for others

Philippians 1:1-11

### Prayer before reading the Bible

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. (Psalm 119:18)

### Summary of the verses

In these verses, Paul expresses his thankfulness for God's work to save the believers in Philippi and he thanks them for their partnership in the gospel and prays that they will grow in faith.

### Scripture reading

Philippians 1:1-11

### Questions for reflection

1. How does Paul describe himself? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does it mean to be a servant of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How does he describe who he's writing to? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why are the people in Philippi holy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is Paul thankful for in verses 3 - 6? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does Paul's prayer for the church in Philippi in verses 9-11 teach us about how we should pray for other believers?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Key concept from the passage

### **Perseverance of the saints**

Philippians 1:6 says, "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." The good work that this verse is referring to is the work of salvation. So this verse is teaching that if God started the work of salvation in your life, meaning that caused you to be born again, then he will finish that work by protecting your soul from Satan and bring you to heaven. This is a beautiful truth we see in the Bible. That those who have truly been saved, those who have truly believed in him and repented of sin, who belong to him, God will not let them lose their salvation. Christians may fall into sin, which grieves the Spirit, impairs their graces and comforts, brings reproach on the church and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again to repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith for salvation. This truth is not an excuse to continue in sin, for 1 John 3:9 says, "No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God." But this truth comforts and encourages us who belong to God because we know that we are not alone in our effort to be faithful to Jesus. We know that God is working in us and protecting us so that we persevere in faith until the last day.

## Pray

What's one thing to praise God from the passage?

---

What's a sin to confess that the passage revealed?

---

Today, according to this passage, what are you asking God for yourself?

---

What are you asking God for the church or another church member?

---

What non-believer are you praying for to be saved?

---

What can you thank God for today?

---

## Practice your memory verse!

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

# Lesson 2

## Advancement of the gospel

Philippians 1:12-18

### Prayer before reading the bible

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. (Psalm 143:8)

### Summary of the verses

In these verses, Paul tells the church in Philippi that despite his imprisonment, the gospel is being proclaimed and is spreading, and this is the most important thing.

### Scripture reading

Read Philippians 1:12-18

### Questions for reflection

1. Paul, one of the greatest evangelists, was put in prison for preaching the gospel. We would think this would make other believers afraid and stop the spread of the gospel. But what do verses 12 - 14 say was the result of his imprisonment?

---

---

2. In verse 17, Paul speaks of people that are wanting to cause trouble for him. What is Paul's attitude in the face of their opposition?

---

---

3. How and why does the gospel give us a reason to be joyful in the face of hardships?

---

---

## Key concept from the passage

### **Evangelism**

Evangelism is speaking the gospel of Jesus with the aim to persuade people to repent of their sin and believe in Jesus. While some believers may be more gifted at evangelism than others, God calls all believers to speak the gospel of Christ. God advances his kingdom through people like you speaking the gospel to others. As we look at our family, friends, and neighbors, it may seem impossible that they would come to believe in Jesus from us sharing the gospel with them. But remember, God opened your heart and saved you. So he can do the same for those close to you. God is able to change the hardest of hearts. We are called to be obedient to Jesus to speak the gospel, even if it means we are persecuted, and God is the one who will bring fruit from the message. To grow in evangelism, here are some practical things you can do. Learn the gospel message by heart. Learn a few Bible passages that speak about the gospel that you could read with non-believers. Write the names down of a few non-believing friends and pray for them regularly and make plans to share the gospel with them. Ask a more mature believer to help you grow in sharing the gospel.

### Pray

What's one thing to praise God from the passage?

---

What's a sin to confess that the passage revealed?

---

Today, according to this passage, what are you asking God for yourself?

---

What are you asking God for the church or another church member?

---

What non-believer are you praying for to be saved?

---

What can you thank God for today?

---

### Practice your memory verse!

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

# Lesson 3

## Between two worlds

Philippians 1:19-26

### Prayer before reading the bible

Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. (Psalm 86:11)

### Summary of the verses

In these verses, Paul comforts the believers in Philippi by saying that he trusts that God will help him remain alive despite difficulties in order to help them grow with Christ.

### Scripture reading

Philippians 1:19-26

### Questions for reflection

1. In verse 21, Paul says for him to live is Christ. What does this mean?

---

---

2. According to these verses, what hope does a believer have after death? How is it gain for a believer to die?

---

---

3. Why does Paul say it is better for him to stay in this world?

---

---

4. What hopes and purposes do you have for your life?

---

---

---

---

## Key concept from the passage

### **God's provision of the Holy Spirit**

In verse 19, Paul speaks about God's provision of the spirit of Jesus, meaning the Holy Spirit, that helps Paul. God has given all believers the gift of the Holy Spirit of God that lives inside us to protect us from Satan and sin, comfort us, and empower us to live for God. The voice and leading of the Holy Spirit never contradicts the words of Scripture. In these verses we see that God's provision of the spirit of Jesus helped Paul in several ways. The Holy Spirit helped Paul have hope in suffering, the hope that Christ will be exalted through him no matter his circumstances. He helped Paul have hope that after this life, he will live with Jesus forever. He strengthened Paul to desire to live for Christ and to live for the purpose of helping other believers progress in the faith. So remember that as you live for God, you are not alone. The Spirit of Jesus is with you to empower you to live for God.

## Pray

What's one thing to praise God from the passage?

---

What's a sin to confess that the passage revealed?

---

Today, according to this passage, what are you asking God for yourself?

---

What are you asking God for the church or another church member?

---

What non-believer are you praying for to be saved?

---

What can you thank God for today?

---

## Practice your memory verse!

Philippians 1:6

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

# Meeting 2

## Living worthy of the gospel

Philippians 1:27-30

### Share and care for one another

- How are you doing?
- What are things that you have found joy in lately?
- What are difficult things in your life now?
- Did you have any questions from the previous lessons? Or did God show you anything important from the previous lessons?

### Summary of the verses

In these verses, Paul says that even if he doesn't get out of prison and come to see them again, they should live a life worthy of the gospel. He also warns them that as they follow Christ, that they will suffer because there are people that oppose them.

### Scripture reading

Philippians 1:27-30

### Questions for discussion

1. What is the gospel message that Paul describes in verse 27?
2. In verse 27, Paul says that even if he doesn't get out of prison and come to see them again, they should live a life worthy of the gospel. What does it mean to live a life worthy of the gospel? Does it mean we live such a good life for God that God saves us and forgives us of sin?
3. According to verse 27, if they live a life worthy of the gospel, what does Paul say that they will do?
4. Paul hopes the Philippian church will stand firm in one Spirit and strive together as one for the faith of the gospel. What makes this hard to do for our church and for your life? How can we help our church to do this, meaning to stand firm in one spirit and strive together as one for the faith of the gospel?
5. Paul warns believers in verses 28-30 that they will face people who oppose them and they will suffer for following Christ. What fears have you had or do you have about suffering for Christ at the hands of people who oppose you?
6. How does the gospel of Jesus and the truth of these verses help you face suffering and persecution in your life?

## Key concept from the passage

### **God's people will be persecuted**

Paul himself was writing this letter from prison. He was put in prison because he was preaching the gospel to others. Verse 29 tells us that just as salvation has been granted to us, so has suffering. Our savior Jesus Christ suffered and was killed. So we as his followers should know and be ready that we too will also be persecuted. 2 Timothy 3:12 tells us that "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." Persecution and opposition for following Christ should not be a surprise to us. Are you facing suffering for following Jesus? Endure with hope. Remember that no suffering or persecution can separate you from God (Romans 8:31-39). We can "glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Romans 5:3-5) James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

## Pray together

Before you pray, ask one another how you can pray for one another. Also discuss how you can pray for our church.

Now pray together. Each person should pray, not only one person.

## Memory verse

Did you memorize Philippians 1:6? Say it to one another

Here is the next memory verse...

Philippians 2:3-4

**3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

## What's next?

Do the next three lessons on your own at home and then meet again to discuss meeting 3.

# Lesson 4

## The humiliation and exaltation of Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

### Prayer before reading the bible today

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:5)

### Summary of the verses

In these verses, Paul calls the church in Philippi to be united together by being humble and caring for one another. Paul uses the gospel of Christ as the basis of his instruction, that Christ humbled himself to death and was exalted to glory.

### Scripture reading

Philippians 2:1-11

### Questions for reflection

1. In verse 1, how does Paul describe the effects of being united to Christ?

---

---

2. How have you been encouraged, comforted, or received compassion in your life from being united to God through Christ?

---

---

3. When Paul says "if", he's not doubting their salvation, but he's saying that their salvation should have an effect on how they live. In light of their union with Christ, what does Paul call them to do in verse 2-4?

---

---

4. How does the description of Jesus in verses 6-11 motivate you to obey the commands in verses 3-4?

---

---

## Key concept from the passage

### **The importance of Jesus being completely God and Man**

Verses 6-11 describe the incarnation of Jesus and how he suffered as a man, but it also describes his resurrection and Lordship. This is not something we can completely understand, that Jesus was completely man and completely God. But the Bible teaches this truth clearly. It's at the core of the gospel. The savior had to be truly human so "that in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses" (Hebrews 2:14-18). It was necessary that the savior be God "so he could have the power to resist sin and never fall into Satan's traps. Also, it was necessary for him to be God so that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin and yet overcome death through his resurrection." The truth, that Jesus lowered himself to become a man and die in our place and yet by his strength as God he defeated sin and death, is not for knowing philosophy, but it affects our lives. It's the basis of our salvation and in verses 1 - 5 we see that it's the reason we should humble ourselves and serve and care for the church.

## Pray

What's one thing to praise God from the passage?

---

What's a sin to confess that the passage revealed?

---

Today, according to this passage, what are you asking God for yourself?

---

What are you asking God for the church or another church member?

---

What non-believer are you praying for to be saved?

---

What can you thank God for today?

---

## Practice your memory verse!

Philippians 2:3-4

**3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

# Lesson 5

## Children of God without fault

Philippians 2:12-18

### Prayer before reading the bible today

Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.  
(Psalm 119:73)

### Summary of the verses

Paul instructs them how to live as children of God in this dark world, and he reminds them that God is working in them to fulfill his purposes in their lives.

### Scripture reading

Philippians 2:12-18

### Questions for reflection

1. What command does Paul give them in verse 12? What does this command mean?

---

---

---

2. How does verse 13 encourage you to do the command in verse 12?

---

---

3. Paul said he will be happy and that his hard work for them will be productive if they “do everything without grumbling or complaining.” If they do this, they will become blameless and pure children of God. Clearly, not grumbling or complaining is very important. What are things that you grumble or complain about?

---

4. What attitude or belief in your heart leads you to grumble?

---

---

5. How does a belief in the gospel help correct a heart that produces grumbling?

---

---

## Key concept from the passage

### Hold firmly to the word of life

Verse 15 and 16 says that “you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.” The word of life is the living word of God, meaning the bible. The word of God is without error and is light for our life in this dark world. It's a perfect treasure of heavenly wisdom which tells us about who God is, the way of salvation, eternal life, and how to live for God. God's word refreshes our souls, gives hope to the weary, and corrects sinners to be faithful to God. Therefore, as believers, we are to hold onto this word firmly. To hold firmly to the Bible means to listen to it, love it, talk about it, hide it in your heart, memorize it, obey it, and receive it as God's authoritative word. A believer who doesn't love God's word nor obey it is like a garden with no water in the summer, it will soon die. But one who holds firmly to the word of life, listening to it with a humble heart to submit to it, grows, blesses others, and bears fruit for God. How can you order your life to hold firmly to the word of life?

## Pray

What's one thing to praise God from the passage?

---

What's a sin to confess that the passage revealed?

---

Today, according to this passage, what are you asking God for yourself?

---

What are you asking God for the church or another church member?

---

What non-believer are you praying for to be saved?

---

What can you thank God for today?

---

## Practice your memory verse!

Philippians 2:3-4

**3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

# Lesson 6

## Examples to Follow

Philippians 2:19-30

Prayer before reading the bible today

Make your face shine on your servant and teach me your decrees. (Psalm 119:135)

### Summary of the verses

Paul tells the Philippians of his plan to send Timothy to them to check and see how they are doing. He also tells them how Epaphroditus, whom they sent to care for Paul, is doing. Paul informs them that he will send Epaphroditus back to them.

### Scripture reading

Philippians 2:19-30

### Questions for reflection

1. Timothy was a young but mature believer who traveled with Paul. How does Paul describe Timothy?

---

---

2. In verse 25, how does Paul describe Epaphroditus?

---

---

3. What does the description of these two men teach us about the Christian life?

---

---

---

4. Paul speaks highly of Epaphroditus and tells the Philippians to honor him. What kind of work did Epaphroditus do for Paul? Was he himself an evangelist? What does this teach us about how we should treat those people who serve in the church faithfully?

---

---

---

## Key concept

### Serving others

Timothy and Epaphroditus were beautiful examples of servants. Being a servant is a mark of a believer. In Matthew 20:26 Jesus said that whoever wants to be great among you must be a servant to all. Our Lord Jesus himself said in Mark 10:45 that he “did not come to be served, but to serve.” Jesus served us by lowering himself to give his life as a ransom for sinners so we may be forgiven of sin and have eternal life. So if we are to imitate Christ, if we’re to reflect his glory to the world, we’re to be servants. First, we’re servants of our King Jesus. Meaning, we seek to obey his commands and work to fulfill his purposes on earth. And many of the commands of Jesus have to do with serving others. As servants, we’re to look to the interests of others before ourselves. If we’re to be servants, we must be humble to use our time, resources, and strength to help others. Mature believers are people who are not proud, but who are humble to help in order that they may see the love and care of God for them. Did care for Paul when he was in prison? Yes, through the service of Epaphroditus. Consider how God wants to use you to care for others.

## Pray

What’s one thing to praise God from the passage?

---

What’s a sin to confess that the passage revealed?

---

Today, according to this passage, what are you asking God for yourself?

---

What are you asking God for the church or another church member?

---

What non-believer are you praying for to be saved?

---

What can you thank God for today?

---

## Practice your memory verse!

Philippians 2:3-4

**3** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4** not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

# Meeting 3

## Justified by Faith

Philippians 3:1-11

### Share and care for one another

- How are you doing?
- What are things that you have found joy in lately?
- What are difficult things in your life now?
- Did you have any questions from the previous lessons? Or did God show you anything important from the previous lessons?

### Summary of the verses

Paul warns the Philippians against false teachers who think they are righteous before God by keeping the works of the law. He calls the people to rejoice in their salvation, and he describes the basis of his own salvation.

### Scripture reading

Philippians 3:1-11

### Questions for discussion

1. In verse 2, Paul warns the Philippians against false teachers and evil doers. From verses 1-11, what do you think was the error or wrong teaching of these evil doers that Paul is opposing? Have you heard any false teaching that is similar to this?
2. In verse 7, what were the gains that Paul once trusted in to be made right with God?
3. What things, other than Christ, are we tempted to boast in and put our hope in to be someone that God is pleased with?
4. Why does Paul consider those things a loss and count them as trash?
5. In verse 1, Paul tells the Philippians to rejoice. What truths in this passage are a reason for you to rejoice?
6. According to these verses, where does a believer's righteousness come from and how do they obtain it?
7. How do these affect your life? How can you apply these verses in your life?

## Key concept from the passage

### **Salvation by faith, not by works**

In verse 9 Paul says, “not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.” The source and foundation of our salvation is not us, it’s Jesus. The good news of Jesus Christ is that we receive the blessing of forgiveness, of being declared righteous, by faith in Christ. We don’t earn forgiveness and righteousness by what we do or what family we’re from. Our good works are the fruit of our salvation, not its foundation. Salvation is given freely by God, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the work of Christ. This is a reason for us to rejoice as Paul tells us in verse 1. If someone asks a believer what their hope of being counted as righteous and gaining eternal life, their answer would, “Because of what Jesus has done for me!” Their answer is not, “Because of what I have done for Jesus.” This truth gives us a great for Jesus and therefore causes us to rejoice and bear fruit for God.

## Pray together

Before you pray, ask one another how you can pray for one another. Also discuss how you can pray for our church.

Now pray together. Each person should pray, not only one person.

## Memory verse

Did you memorize Philippians 2:3-4? Say it to one another

Here is the next memory verse...

Philippians 4:6-7

(6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## What’s next?

Do the next three lessons on your own at home and then meet again to discuss meeting 4.

# Lesson 7

## Press on Toward the Goal

Philippians 3:12-16

Prayer before reading the bible today

Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. (Psalm 119:34)

Summary of the verses

Paul speaks about how he presses on toward the goal of living with God forever, and he calls the Philippians to do the same.

Scripture reading

Philippians 3:12-16

Questions for reflection

1. What is the goal Paul mentions in verse 12 and 14 that he is pressing towards?

---

---

2. How has Jesus taken hold of this goal for us?

---

---

3. According to these verses, how did this truth affect Paul's life? This truth that Jesus has already taken hold of the prize for him but he has yet to fully receive the prize yet.

---

---

---

## Key concept from the passage

### **Already but not yet**

In verse 12, Paul says that he has not obtained all this nor arrived at his goal. All this or his goal refers to the resurrection of the dead mentioned in verse 11. Meaning Paul has not yet passed from death to life to never experience death again and live with God forever in perfect peace. He says in verse 12 that he presses on to take hold of this, meaning eternal life, the fullness of God's kingdom. But he also says that Jesus has already obtained this for him. Meaning Jesus has already saved him and made him a citizen of the kingdom of God. We believers have, in one sense, obtained eternal life. Jesus has justified us, he's united us to himself, he's prepared a place in heaven for us, our life with Christ has begun, we know him. But in another sense, we have not yet taken hold of these things fully until we die or Jesus returns. We have been saved from sin, but we still fall into sin. We know Christ now, but only partially. One day we will know him fully in his glory when we set him face to face. So how do we live in this time before we fully receive the kingdom of God? We don't become lazy, but we persevere. Verse 16 says, "Only let us live up to what we have already attained". Fellow believers, let us be confident of what Jesus has done for us and let's strive to gain our prize and hear the words from God on the last day, "Well done good and faithful servant."

## Pray

What's one thing to praise God from the passage?

---

What's a sin to confess that the passage revealed?

---

Today, according to this passage, what are you asking God for yourself?

---

What are you asking God for the church or another church member?

---

What non-believer are you praying for to be saved?

---

What can you thank God for today?

---

## Practice your memory verse!

Philippians 4:6-7

(6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

# Lesson 8

## Imitating mature believers

Philippians 3:17-21

Prayer before reading the bible today

Your statutes are always righteous; give me understanding that I may live. (Psalm 119:144)

### Summary of the verses

Paul calls them to persevere by following his example as one who lives according to the commands of Christ. He contrasts believers and non-believers and tells believers of the hope they have because of Christ.

### Scripture reading

Philippians 3:17-21

### Questions for reflection

1. In verse 17, Paul calls the believers in Philippi to follow his example. Having godly examples to imitate are good gifts from God that help us follow Christ. Who are two people that are mature for you to imitate their life in order to follow Christ? What are ways that you would like to imitate their life?

---

---

2. In verses 18-20, Paul contrasts those who don't belong to Christ and those who do belong to Christ. How does Paul describe those who don't belong to Christ and how does he describe those who do belong to Christ?

---

---

3. How do these verses encourage you to persevere in following Jesus?

---

---

---

## Key concept from the passage

### **A bodily resurrection**

Verse 21 tells us that Jesus “will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” On the third day after Jesus died, he rose from the dead. His body became alive again, and it was transformed to be a new and spiritual body. Verse 21, and several other places in the Bible (for example first Corinthians 15), teach us that when Jesus returns, judges everyone, and completely establishes his eternal reign on a new earth, that he will give believers new spiritual bodies, like the glorious resurrected body of Jesus. After death and after Jesus returns, we will not just be spirits floating in the sky. No, God will give us new spiritual bodies. These new bodies will never grow old or perish, but they will be perfect and free from pain. We will inherit a perfect earth that’s not under the burden of sin, and we will live forever with all believers with Jesus as our king. As you live in this world where “many live as enemies of the cross of Christ,” don’t be without hope and remember that your citizenship is in heaven. Death can’t destroy a believer. Death only takes a believer to Jesus where they will live forever in perfect peace and joy.

## Pray

What’s one thing to praise God from the passage?

---

What’s a sin to confess that the passage revealed?

---

Today, according to this passage, what are you asking God for yourself?

---

What are you asking God for the church or another church member?

---

What non-believer are you praying for to be saved?

---

What can you thank God for today?

---

## Practice your memory verse!

Philippians 4:6-7

(6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

# Lesson 9

## Rejoice in the Lord

Philippians 4:1-9

Prayer before reading the bible today

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.  
(Psalm 143:10)

### Summary of the verses

Paul calls the Philippians to stand firm in Christ by pursuing peace with one another, being gentle, praying, and thinking on whatever is true.

### Scripture reading

Philippians 4:1-9

### Questions for reflection

1. In verses 4-5, what commands does Paul give?

---

---

2. How does the truth that the "Lord is near," motivate you to fulfill these commands?

---

---

3. What does verse 6-7 teach you about prayer? For example, when should you pray? What's the result of prayer?

---

---

---

4. In verse 8, Paul calls believers to think on good and righteous things. Meaning we don't dwell on greedy thoughts, or lust, or things that don't honor God. Controlling our thoughts is difficult as they're hidden from other people. But our thoughts are known to God. How can you make your thinking better to only think of things that are excellent and praiseworthy?

---

---

## Key concept from the passage

### Church Unity

In verse 2, Paul pleads with two ladies in the church in Philippi to be of the same mind. We don't know what their disagreement was, but it's clear that Paul desires that they reconcile and live in peace. Protecting the unity of the church is one of the most important things to God, and so it should also be important to us. But how is our unity in Christ visible? One of the primary ways is through believers loving one another in communities called churches. It's a sweet and good blessing when we live in peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ. But our unity isn't only for our own benefit, it's also important for giving the gospel to others. Our unity shows the world the love of Christ. One of the primary ways that Satan uses to try to destroy the church is by making the members argue with one another, gossip about one another, not trust one another, and not care for one another. May we not let Satan succeed, but may we forgive others as Christ has forgiven us. Do you have any unresolved conflict with other believers that you need to reconcile? Is there any bitterness or hardness of heart towards another member? Then I plead with you, be reconciled and be of one mind, for this pleases the Lord.

### Pray

What's one thing to praise God from the passage?

---

What's a sin to confess that the passage revealed?

---

Today, according to this passage, what are you asking God for yourself?

---

What are you asking God for the church or another church member?

---

What non-believer are you praying for to be saved?

---

What can you thank God for today?

---

### Practice your memory verse!

Philippians 4:6-7

(6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

# Meeting 4

## Contentment

Philippians 4:10-23

### Share and care for one another

- How are you doing?
- What are things that you have found joy in lately?
- What are difficult things in your life now?
- Did you have any questions from the previous lessons? Or did God show you anything important from the previous lessons?

### Summary of the verses

Paul thanks the Philippian believers for supporting him and providing for his needs while he has been on mission.

### Scripture reading

Philippians 4:10-23

### Questions for discussion

1. Verse 13 is a very popular verse among believers. But many people just know this verse and don't know the verses that come before it. If you just look at verse 13, you may think it means that a believer can do anything he wants through God. But if you consider verses 10-12, what does verse 13 mean?
2. Are there any areas of your life that you are discontent with now? How does the truth of these verses and the gospel message help you be content in your situation?
3. In verses 14-19, Paul thanks the Philippian believers for supporting him when he was on his mission trips and also when he was in prison. God used the generosity of the Philippian church to care for Paul. What do you learn about giving from these verses?
4. How does the gospel of Jesus motivate us to be a people who are generous and ready to serve others?
5. Do you regularly give to the church? How do you decide how much to give?
6. In verses 21-23, Paul gives greetings from different people. Paul is writing this letter to encourage the believers in Philippi. In chapter 3, Paul said he wanted to send Timothy to check in on the believers in Philippi. Paul clearly sought to check in on different believers. What can we learn from this example about staying in touch with other believers?

## Key concept from the passage

### **Giving**

Paul thanks the believers in Philippi for giving money to him so he could spread the gospel to new places. He also thanks them for supporting him while he was in prison. In these verses we see believers giving to support mission work through Paul. The responsibility to support the church to accomplish the mission of Christ is on God's people (like the believers in Philippi), not on governments and foreign NGOs. God has called us believers to give regularly, according to our income or ability, and cheerfully from the heart, not out of obligation. Giving part of our income to the church is a way we worship God, and there are many great promises and blessings in the scripture for those who give generously. But why do we give? We give money to things that we consider valuable. We buy a refrigerator, because it's important to store food so we can eat each day. Do you consider the work of God through his church valuable? If so, we should support the church as a way of expressing our love, thanksgiving, and worship to God. Remember, we give because God has given to us. He has given us his son. So as we give, let us watch how God blesses our gifts to accomplish his purposes, just like God took the 5 loaves of bread and two fish and multiplied them to feed thousands.

### Pray together

Before you pray, ask one another how you can pray for one another. Also discuss how you can pray for our church.

Now pray together. Each person should pray, not only one person.

### Memory verse

Did you memorize Philippians 4:6-7? Say it to one another

### What's next?

Consider the benefit that you have seen of meeting with another believer. I encourage you to think about how you can continue meeting with another believer to read the scriptures, pray, and encourage one another. You don't need a special program and book like this, you can just choose a book of the Bible and read it together.



This booklet contains a 4-week Bible study through the book of Philippians. There are chapters designed for individual study at home and other chapters intended to be discussed as a group. Each chapter includes questions for meditation, a brief teaching, a guide for prayer, and a memory verse. This booklet is not meant to be read alone. It's designed for believers to study together to help one another grow with Christ. I pray you learn to live for God through this study of Philippians.

Joseph Carroll is one of the pastors at Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Erbil. He's lived in Erbil for many years with his wife and children. He has a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Mississippi State University and worked as an assistant professor in mechanical engineering before he began working in pastoral ministry.

Providing resources to help believers and churches  
live faithfully according to God's word



**DILSOZI**