

Philippians at Home

Week One: Philippians 1:1–11

Welcome to one of the most joyous books of the Bible. Philippians' theme of joy is only overshadowed by the number of times Paul mentions "Christ" or "Jesus Christ." Paul was so preoccupied by Jesus that despite the walls of his Roman prison, execution looming, and desertion by many of his friends, Paul was content in Christ. As you read Philippians over the next 7 weeks, may you discover anew cherished verses, great doctrinal statements, how to imitate Jesus' self-giving love, and the true source of joy.

"Philippians at Home" isn't meant to be an in-depth Bible study. Think of it more as a tool coinciding with the sermon series on Philippians to generate Jesus-centered conversations with your family/roommates or family/friends online as we "shelter in place."

Prepare

Find a favorite place in your home to sit, grab a Bible and a device to access YouTube, and ask the Holy Spirit to work in your heart and mind through your study of Philippians.

Watch & Listen

Click on this link from [The Bible Project](#) for an animated overview and the historical background of the book of Philippians.

Read & Discuss

Scripture Reading One: [Acts 16:14-40](#) & [Philippians 1:1-2](#).

Paul wrote his letter of Philippians to "all the saints in Christ Jesus." Paul's history with the diverse, Philippian church began with the baptism of a merchant named Lydia, the healing of a demon possessed girl and Paul's subsequent imprisonment, and the conversion of a Philippian jailor. "All the saints" include you and me, as well. The biblical word for saint means set apart for God. If you are a follower of Christ, you are "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God" regardless the degree of your personal holiness.

- At what point in your life did God call you by name and give you the title of saint not because of what you have done but because of what Jesus accomplished for you on the cross? Share your story. Consider writing your story for the 10:25 ELMO Connection!

Try on your new name: Grace and peace to you, Saint (your name). The book of Philippians was written for you!

- Do you see any significance in grace preceding peace (Phil 1:2)?
- As you consider the biblical meaning of these rich words, how would you back up your answer with stories from scripture?
- How has God ministered to your heart with grace and peace during this time of turmoil?

Scripture Reading Two: [Philippians 1:3-8](#).

- Think of an epic adventure or fantasy book/movie with characters banded together in a perilous journey. What are some of the distinctive traits of the partnership in this book/movie epic?

The partnership or sometimes translated fellowship in verse 5 is more than friends getting together for food or a business deal. Paul and the Philippian church were caught up in an epic task, to share the gospel of God. The Philippians financially and prayerfully joined in Paul's work and indirectly shared in Paul's "imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel" (Phil 1:7).

- If you've participated in a fellowship of a similar nature, what were some of the highlights of this fellowship?
- How have you observed the global church's response to COVID-19 reflect this deeper definition of fellowship?
- What barriers to fellowship do we need to overcome to be the church?
- How might we begin to break these barriers down according to verse 4 & 7? If you have barriers in relationships with other Christians, how might verse 4 & 7 help?

In verse 6 we find the comforting doctrine, perseverance of the saints. No one whom God brings to a saving knowledge of Jesus will be lost. (See also [Jn 10:27-28](#), [Rom 8:38-39](#)). What God starts, He finishes! God will keep us secure in his love until the end, but God will also prune away sin in our lives until we are conformed into Christ's image. God began a good work in you and will complete it.

- What has God's pruning looked like for you in the past? How about the present?

Scripture Reading Three: [Philippians 1:9-11](#).

Like a good parent, God the Father is delighted you are a member of his family and wants your life to model a more knowledgeable and insightful love, a discernment for what is best, a pure and blameless life, and fruitfulness.

- Think of someone who has played a big part in your spiritual growth. How has his/her life modeled love, discernment, purity, and fruitfulness?
- How might you help your own children or people in your care grow in faith and love this week?
- How will you continue to grow in faith and love?

Apply & Pray

Pray Philippians 1:9-11 for the people in your care.

- And this is my prayer: that (insert name)'s love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that (insert name) may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Amen!