

# READING PLAN + STUDY QUESTIONS

## *Philippians*

## READING PLAN OVERVIEW

- **SESSION 1:** PHILIPPIANS 1-2
  - TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO DIE IS GAIN
- **SESSION 2:** PHILIPPIANS 3-4
  - GOD PROVIDES PAUL WITH PEACE + CONTENTMENT

## HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

- 1. READ THE GENRE + BOOK OVERVIEW ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**
- 2. READ THE CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE FOR EACH SESSION**
- 3. READ THE CHAPTER SUMMARIES ON [EVERYDAYSCRIPTURE.ORG](https://everydayscripture.org)**
- 4. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS + REFLECT ON THE READING**

This study encourages going at your own pace, allowing each session to be a day, a week, or however long you need. Each session contains questions to be used for individual reflection or small group discussion.

This study was made to be used alongside Bible reading. Although we have created chapter summaries, there is no substitute for reading God's Word.

## QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- What type of literature is this book of the Bible? Does that affect the interpretation?
- Who is the intended audience of this book? What purpose does it serve?
- What does this passage of Scripture reveal about God's character?
- What can I learn from this Scripture passage? How does it apply today?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Everyday Scripture: Philippians](#)
- [Everyday Scripture: New Testament Letters](#)
- [The Bible Project: Philippians Overview Video](#)

## GENRE OVERVIEW: NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

The news of Jesus was spreading rapidly! Paul, Peter, and some of the other apostles used letters to communicate with believers in churches all over the world. After seeing the resurrected Jesus, the apostles were on a mission to share the gospel with all people. Because Paul and the other writers experienced God's power dramatically, they were able to boldly declare their faith in Christ.

The apostle Paul traveled throughout the Roman Empire and Asia Minor to preach the gospel and plant churches. Many of the New Testament letters are addressed to groups of people or individuals that Paul met along the way. Other disciples of Jesus, including Peter, John, James, and Jude, also wrote letters to churches. These letters provide a glimpse into life in the first century and serve as a reminder of Jesus' teaching.

Although many of these letters include encouragement and praise, others offer warning or concern. Because Christians were facing great persecution, these letters served as a source of hope and renewal of faith along with caution against false teachers. Because the ability to read was uncommon and writing supplies were expensive, these letters were considered very valuable and were typically read aloud for the community of believers to hear.

## BOOK OVERVIEW: PHILIPPIANS

Philippi was the site of Paul's first church in Europe, which he founded during his second missionary journey. Paul and Silas were first arrested in Philippi for sharing the gospel. While imprisoned, Paul shared the message of Jesus with the prison guard, who became a believer and follower of Jesus (Acts 16). When he was imprisoned again in Rome, Paul wrote to encourage and empower the Philippian church.

Throughout the letter, Paul focused on Christ as the source of joy, peace, and strength. Despite his circumstances, Paul found contentment and trusted that God was using his life for the advancement of the gospel. Through the peace of God, Paul could view his suffering as a necessary experience, in imitation of Jesus. Paul deeply cared for the Philippians and showed confidence that God would finish what he started in Philippi.

### SESSION ONE: PHILIPPIANS 1-2

#### TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO DIE IS GAIN

- How would you describe Paul's tone towards the Philippians? What good work do you think Paul was referring to in Philippians 1:6?
- How did Paul view his personal struggles and trials as a way of honoring God (Philippians 1:12-14)?
- Paul would either be freed or executed. In Philippians 1:20-26, how did Paul find hope for either option? Which did he say he desired most?
  - What does this tell you about Paul's confidence in God's sovereignty?
- What does it mean to live in a manner worthy of the gospel (Philippians 1:27)?
- According to Philippians 1:29, what has God granted to believers?
- How did Paul describe humility in Philippians 2:3-4?
- What do you think Paul meant by saying that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord (Philippians 2:9-11)?
- In Philippians 2:12, Paul encouraged believers to work out their faith. How is this different from attempting to earn salvation?

## SESSION TWO: PHILIPPIANS 3–4

### GOD PROVIDES PAUL WITH PEACE + CONTENTMENT

- How did Paul describe the difference between faith in God and confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3:1–11)?
- Read Philippians 3:14. What was Paul's goal? What was the prize he sought?
- According to Philippians 3:20–21, where is the citizenship of believers? What will happen to our physical bodies?
- What two strategies did Paul use to combat anxiety (Philippians 4:6)?
- How did Paul describe God's divine peace (Philippians 4:7)?
- What adjectives did Paul use to filter his thoughts (Philippians 4:8)?
- How have you heard Philippians 4:13 used out of context? Based on the surrounding verses, what was Paul really talking about?
- How does Philippians 4:19 express Paul's confidence in God's provision?