
JOYFEST 2019

A SERIES IN PHILIPPIANS



SUMMERLEAS
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

JOYFEST – PHILIPPIANS

WEEK	PASSAGE	THEME
1	Philippians 1:1-11	Gospel Partnership
2	Philippians 1:12-18	Gospel Priorities
3	Philippians 1:18-26	True Joy
4	Philippians 1:27-30	Courage despite persecution
5	Philippians 2:1-11	True humility
6	Philippians 2:12-18	Work out your salvation
7	Philippians 2:19-30	Case studies in humility
8	Philippians 3:1-11	The reason for Joy
9	Philippians 3:12-21	A call to persevere
10	Philippians 4:1-9	Stand firm!
11	Philippians 4:10-23	Gratitude, glory and grace

INTRODUCTION: PHILIPPIANS

A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF PHILIPPIANS

The Author: The Apostle Paul, while he was in prison (1:7; 13-14).

When & Who it was written to: Around 61AD, to the Church in Philippi, which was a Roman city in the north of Greece.

The Purpose: Philippians is a letter full of joy and thanksgiving, love, fellowship and suffering. The Phillipian church as most likely experiencing some opposition and persecution. Paul tells them how to stand firm in their Christian walk when the world around them is far from God. He does this by encouraging them to put the gospel at the center of everything and to consider heaven as their home, not earth. By imitating Christ, they will be able to help each other to stand firm in the gospel, no matter what is going on around them.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible and pray every day.
- Use the prayer point suggestions below to guide your prayers as well as writing down people you are seeking to reach.

2. GOSPEL COMMUNITY

- Take this to **GC** each week so you can follow along with the Bible Study.
- Use the **Whole Family Learning** ideas on page 76.

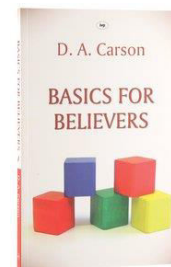
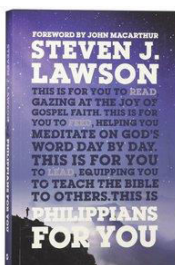
PRAYER POINTS

- We want to encourage you to be on mission to your non-Christian friends, family and contacts. Who are you on mission to? Make a list and pray for them regularly.

SUGGESTED READING:

If you would like to engage more with Philippians:

- 'Basics for Believers' by Don Carson
- 'Philippians for You' by Steven J. Lawson



WEEK 1: PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Acts 16:11-40

1. What are the similarities of the two conversion stories that happened in Philippi?
2. What was the source of the persecution towards Paul and Silas? How did they respond to the persecution?
3. Do you have a joy in Christ, despite your circumstances, like what we see here from Paul, Silas and those converted? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

1. What do we learn about the church in Philippi in these verses?
2. What was the cause of their generosity?
3. What is the connection between joy and generosity? Have you seen that in your life or the lives of others?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Philippians 1:1-2

1. How does Paul describe himself?
2. Who is Paul writing to? What does it mean to be 'saints in Christ Jesus'?
3. Do you consider yourself to be a servant and a saint? Holy and set apart to serve God? What does this mean for the way that you live?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Philippians 1:3-8

1. How does Paul feel towards the Philippians? Why?
2. What comfort is there for us in verse 6?
3. How can you show more love and affection towards Christians in your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Philippians 1:9-11

1. What is Paul's primary concern for the Philippians?
2. What will this love result in for their lives?
3. Rewrite this prayer in your own words and use it to guide your prayer.

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 1 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

What are some of the things that usually connect people together?

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

What reasons does Paul give for his thankfulness for the Philippians church?

Why do they share a partnership?

How would you describe Paul's attitude towards the Philippian Church in this passage?

Paul's prayer for the Philippians contains many elements (verse 9-11). Let's unpack it together:

- What does he ask that their love will come from and grow in?
- What will be the result of this?
- What will happen to the Philippians if their love for God grows in this way?

How do you feel towards other Christians? Do you enjoy your partnership with them in the gospel? Why or why not?

What is the difference between friendship and gospel partnership? What would it look like in our everyday lives to have true gospel partnership with other Christians?

What do you usually pray for others? What can you learn from Paul's prayer for the Philippians and incorporate into your prayers for others?

GC PRAYER POINTS

Take Paul's prayer for the Philippians and pray it for each other.

WEEK 2: PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18

GOSPEL PRIORITIES

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Philippians 1:12-14

1. What has happened to Paul?
2. What reasons does Paul give for his circumstances?
3. How do you view your circumstances in life?

TUESDAY

Read Philippians 1:15-18

1. What are the different motives Paul lists for people preaching the gospel?
2. What does it mean to preach Christ out of selfish ambition?
3. Examine your own motives. Do you seek to advance Christ's reputation or your own?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

1. What reason does Paul give for persecution and suffering?
2. What hope do we have as Christians?
3. How do you view your life here on earth?
4. What difference does having an eternal view make to your life now?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Luke 9:21-27

1. What kind of life does Jesus call his disciples to live?
2. What warning does Jesus give in this passage?
3. What does it mean for you to 'deny yourself and take up your cross' daily?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17

1. What does Paul teach that every Christian will experience?
2. Despite this, how does Paul call them to live?
3. How is scripture described here?
4. How can you make sure you always continue in God's word?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 2 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18

Think about the world around you and the people you know. What are some of the things that drive people to do what they do?

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18

Where is Paul while he is writing this? And how does he feel about his situation?

What has been one of the results of his imprisonment?

List the two different motives of those preaching the gospel?

What does it mean to “preach Christ out of selfish ambition” (vs 17)?

What reasons does Paul give for his joy?

Considering all this, what would you say is Paul’s priority in life?

How do you view the circumstances of your life? Whether good or bad, do you see them as opportunities to share the gospel?

Try listing out a few of the difficulties you are currently facing in your life. Can you see any ways in which these could be used to promote Christ's Kingdom work?

What is your motivation for preaching the gospel? To make a reputation for yourself or for Christ?

How can you encourage other believers to be more bold and confident in the gospel?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 3: PHILIPPIANS 1:18-26

TRUE JOY

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Philippians 1:18-20

1. What reason does Paul give for his joy?
2. Are there times when you have been ashamed of Christ? Why?
3. How can you honour Christ more in the way that you live?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Philippians 1:21-26

1. What is Paul's attitude towards:
 - a. Life
 - b. Death
2. What are his reasons for choosing one over the other?
3. How are you using the life you have to glorify Christ?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

1. How does Paul describe his ministry?
2. What reason does Paul give for having this attitude towards life?
3. Paul experiences joy despite his circumstances. Is this something that you also experience? Why or why not?
4. What is something you need to change in your life to have joy in God despite your circumstances?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Romans 8:18-25

1. What is Paul's view of suffering in this world?
2. What are Christians to hope in?
3. How do you view this world and the troubles you face?
4. How can you ensure that you maintain an eternal perspective in your day to day life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Romans 8:26-30

1. How does Paul describe the work of the Holy Spirit?
2. What hope and assurance do we have as Christians about what happens to us?
3. Do you view all that happens to you as God working for your good? Why or why not?
4. How does this view of life change your cause for joy?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 3 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 1:18-26

Think about the world around you and the people you know. What is it that makes them happy or joyful?

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:18-26

Where does Paul's hope and confidence come from? How do you think this helps him to have joy despite his circumstances?

What is Paul's view of:

a) His life?

b) His death?

What reason does Paul give for him staying alive?

What do you think it means to 'live for Christ'? What would this look like in everyday life?

How would you currently describe your life's purpose? Does Jesus fit into this at all?

Paul's joy comes from Christ. From knowing him more and in sharing him with others.

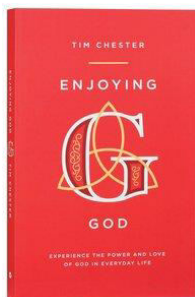
- a) List the top three things that give you joy in life.

- b) Did 'living for Christ' appear in your answers to the above? If not, why do you think it didn't?

- c) Can you list any barriers that stop Christ from being a source of joy in your life? Is there anything you could do to remove these?

Think about the decisions and priorities that you have made in your life? What do they tell you about whether you are seeking comfort for yourself or Christ's glory?

GC PRAYER POINTS



If you would like to find out more about enjoying God, Tim Chester's book 'Enjoying God' is really helpful.

WEEK 4: PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30 COURAGE DESPITE PERSECUTION

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Philippians 1:27-28

1. What does it mean to live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel?
2. How is Christian community described here?
3. What is one thing you need to change in order to more fully live a life worthy of the gospel?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Colossians 3:1-17

1. What reason does Paul give for living out the gospel? Therefore, what is to be your motivation for doing good?
2. What are Christians to:
 - a) Put off:
 - b) Put on:
3. What is one thing that you can work on from the 'put on' list?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Philippians 1:27:30

1. What does Paul say Christians are to expect? Why is this?
2. What is your response to persecution? How are some ways that you receive persecution for the gospel in your life?
3. What can you do in order to stand firm when this happens?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17

1. What are all Christians to expect?
2. How are you to react to this suffering?
3. What is the connection between suffering and scripture?
4. What priority does scripture have in your life? How could you increase this?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

1. What is Paul's attitude towards suffering here?
2. What is the difference between suffering for the sake of the gospel or suffering due to our sin?
3. What is to be a Christians response to suffering?
4. How do you respond to suffering in your life? Is there anything you need to change in order to do good no matter what the circumstances are?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 4 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30

What are some things that people are willing to make sacrifices for?

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30

How does Paul say the Philippians are to live?

What does this look like in everyday life?

How does Paul describe living in Christian community here?

What two things are inextricably linked in this passage?

What reason does Paul give here for suffering?

Imagine a scale of 1-10, with 10 being completely worthy of Christ and 0 being completely unworthy of Christ. What rating would you give your own actions and behavior?

We, like the Philippians, live in a world that does prioritise not the gospel. Therefore, we too should expect and experience suffering for the sake of the gospel. What do you think this looks like in your life here in Kingborough?

What difference does it make to you that the Christian life is to be lived out together with other Christians?

Do you embrace this and take hold of the fact that we are to stand and strive and suffer together? How can you do this more in your life?

Considering all this, how does the gospel motivate you to make the sacrifices that Jesus calls us to?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 5: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

TRUE HUMILITY

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Philippians 2:1-4

1. How are Christians to behave?
2. What behavior do you find most challenging to replicate in your day to day life?
3. What is one thing you can do to work on this?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Philippians 2:5-11

1. How is Jesus described in this passage?
2. What hope do we have for being able to have and to express the same qualities?
3. What is one thing that you can do to grow in humility?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Proverbs 11:2 and Proverbs 15:33

1. What do these proverbs teach about humility?
2. What is the relationship between humility and wisdom?
3. Think about where you look for wisdom in your life. Do you see the humble life as a wise life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Proverbs 18:12 and Proverbs 22:4

1. How is humility described in these proverbs?
2. What is the result of humility in one's life?
3. What is the relationship between humility and fearing God?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read James 3:13-18

1. What are the two types of wisdom that are described here?
2. What are the results of the two types of wisdom?
3. Are these qualities evident in your life? What do you need to change in order to grow in these?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 5 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

What is your instinctive reaction to the word 'humility'? How would you define and describe humility?

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

What behaviors does Paul appeal for the Philippians to have?

What reasons does Paul give for acting like this (verse 1)?

How is humility defined here in this passage?

Unpack the example of Jesus in verses 4-11. How is he the supreme example of humility?

What is your response to Jesus when you read this?

Has your view and definition of humility changed from what you have learnt today? How?

How can you look more to the interests of others in your everyday life?

What would it look like for you to humbly submit to the will of God in your life right now? How does the gospel enable you to do this gladly rather than grudgingly?

"Everything in our Christian lives is designed to produce a greater humility in us" (Lawson). Discuss how you have seen this work out in your own life

Considering all this, what is one thing you can do this week to develop more of a mindset of humility in your everyday life?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 6: PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Philippians 2:12-13

1. What have the Philippians already been doing?
2. What are they continue to do? Who will help them?
3. How are you going at working on your holiness? Are there any changes you need to make in your life to work at this?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read I John 2:1-6

1. What is the mark of a true Christian?
2. What should a Christians attitude towards Christ's word and his commandments be?
3. Do you have a commitment to Gods word? What could you do to increase this in your day to day life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Philippians 2:14-18

1. What commands does Paul give the Philippians in these verses?
2. What are the reasons for this behavior?
3. Do you find joy in working on your holiness? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-10

1. What are Christians to work hard at? Why?
2. What do you think it looks like in daily life to train yourself in godliness?
3. What is one thing that you can do to further train yourself in godliness?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Hebrews 4:11-13

1. What are Christians to strive for?
2. What will help them do this?
3. How is God's word described here?
4. How can you speak God's word more to people in your day to day life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 6 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

What do you think happens in a Christian's life after they accept Christ and before they go to heaven?

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

We know that Paul believes in salvation by grace alone (Ephesians 2:8-9), so what does he mean by 'work out your salvation'?

What motivation does Paul give for working on holiness?

How does this work happen in a believer and for what purpose?

What attitude does Paul specifically address here (vs 14)? What reason does he give for this command?

What are they to hold on to and why?

A drink offering was poured on top of an animal sacrifice to symbolise the rising of the sacrificial offering to God (Exodus 29:38-41) Considering this, what is Paul referring to in verse 17-18?

When are you most likely to grumble? What would it sound like to praise God in those moments instead?

Is pursuing holiness something that brings you joy and happiness? Why or why not?

How can increasing your joy in God help you grow in your holiness?

Are you currently doing anything to help grow in your holiness? If so, share suggestions with your GC. Is there anything that you need to change in order to prioritise this more in your life?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 7: PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

CASE STUDY IN HUMILITY

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Philippians 2:19-24

1. How does Paul describe Timothy?
2. Read back to Philippians 2:4-5. What similarities do you see between what Paul has described and Timothy?
3. How can you stop seeking your own interests and seek that of Christs?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Acts 16:1-10

1. Timothy was with Paul when the Church in Philippi started. What do we learn about what Timothy has been through?
2. What is Timothy's approach to Christian ministry?
3. Is there anything about Timothy that has challenged you?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Philippians 2:25-30

1. How does Paul describe Epaphroditus?
2. Read back to Philippians 2:5-8. What similarities do you see between what Paul has described and Epaphroditus?
3. How can you serve others more in your everyday life, even if that leads to suffering?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Luke 14:7-11

1. What does Jesus teach in this parable about humility?
2. Look back over to Philippians 2:25-30. How is Epaphroditus similar to what Jesus describes in this parable?
3. Are you someone who exalts yourself or others in the way that you think and act?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Matthew 5:1-12

1. What does Jesus teach here about true humility?
2. What is the result of humility?
3. Think and pray over this description that Jesus gives and ask him to help you develop these attitudes.

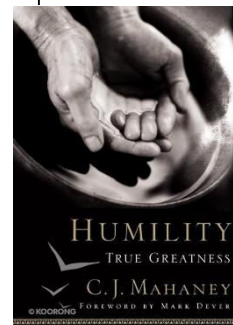
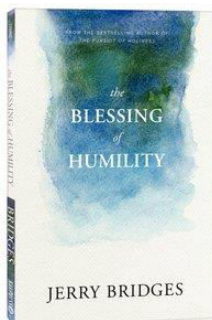
Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

If you have been challenged by the teaching on humility in Philippians and would like to read more, the following two books are really helpful:

- 'Humility: True Greatness' by C.J Mahaney
- 'The Blessing of Humility' by Jerry Bridges



WEEK 7 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

Who is someone who you admire and have found yourself imitating their behavior.

READ PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

How does Paul describe:

a) Timothy?

b) Epaphroditus?

Unpack the descriptions of these two men. What do the phrases and attitudes used in the description mean?

Read back over Philippians 2:1-8. How are these two men examples of how to live out humility in everyday life?

Both Timothy and Epaphroditus experienced trials and suffering. What was it that kept them going?

If you had to explain to someone in a couple of sentences what humility is and how humble people live, how would you use Philippians 2 to answer them?

What would it look like for you to adopt similar behavior and attitudes to that of Timothy and Epaphroditus? It might be helpful to think of specific area of your life. Choose one or more of the following areas to think about - Your family, at Summerleas, in GC, at work, other?

Are you willing to make these changes in your life and to try and be more humble? What is our motivation for working at this?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 8: PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

THE REASON FOR JOY

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Philippians 3:1-3

1. What does Paul command the Philippians to do?
2. What do you think it means to be the 'real circumcision'?
3. What three characteristics of Christians does Paul describe in verse 3?
4. Are these characteristic true of you?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Philippians 3:3-6

1. What are the things that Paul could have put his confidence in?
2. Do you see people today who put their confidence in similar things?
3. Is there anything, other than Christ, in your life that you are tempted to put your confidence in?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Philippians 3:7-11

1. What does Paul care about more than anything?
2. How does Paul describe righteousness here?
3. What is the result of righteousness?
4. What is it that most motivates you in life and gives you joy?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Acts 8:1-3 and Acts 9:1-31

1. What do we learn here about Paul?
2. What was Paul's reaction to understanding who Christ really was?
3. Considering what you have learnt about Paul here and in Philippians, what do you think motivated him to do what he did?
4. Is there anything about the life of Paul that challenges you?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Romans 3:21-26

1. How is righteousness described in this passage?
2. How is this righteousness received?
3. How does the knowledge of what Christ has done for you affect your everyday attitude and behavior?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 8 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

What do you think is the difference between happiness and joy?

READ LUKE PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

What is to be the source of the Philippians joy?

What commands does Paul give in this passage?

What is the true threat of the 'dogs' and 'evil doers'?

How does Paul describe himself in this passage?

What is the source of Paul's joy and his motivation for serving?

Is there anything that threatens to sap you of your joy in Christ?

Do you enjoy God? Why or why not?

Is there anything in your life that you are tempted to hold onto more strongly than Christ?

What difference would it make in your life if you had the type of joy that Paul's talks about here?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 9: PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

A CALL TO PERSEVERE

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Philippians 3:12-16

1. Once a person is saved what attitude should they adopt in life?
2. What is to dominate the thoughts of 'mature' Christians?
3. Do you have this attitude in you life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Philippians 3:17-21

1. What warning does Paul give to the Philippians?
2. What does he tell them to do instead?
3. What hope do Christians have?
4. How are you going at living in the light of this hope?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Colossians 3:1-4

1. What does this passage teach about how to live as citizens of heaven, whilst still on earth?
2. What reason does Paul give for this?
3. How can you 'set your mind on things above' more in your daily life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Hebrews 12:1-17

1. What will help people 'run the Christian race'?
2. What reason is given for discipline in this passage? What comfort can we have in this?
3. What dangers are given in this passage that can stop people from persevering?
4. Considering this, what is one thing you can do to help you persevere?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read 1 Timothy 6:11-16

1. What does Paul say will help Timothy 'fight the good fight'?
2. What is Timothy to pursue?
3. How is Jesus described in these verses?
4. Choose one behavior from verse 11 that you can work on this week.

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 9 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

If someone asked you "How do I live the Christian life?" what would you say?

READ PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

What does Paul say he is striving for?

Describe the attitude that Paul calls 'mature' Christians to have?

What does Paul say will help or hinder the Philippians to live as Christians?

What does Paul mean by the phrase 'our citizenship is in heaven...' (vs 20)?

What hope do Christians have?

How are you going at persevering in your Christian life?

Who do you have in your life who can mentor you and who you can imitate?

Do you have anyone in your life who actually leads you away from Christ?

What do you think it looks like to live as a citizen of heaven on this earth?

How does considering your future life in Christ's kingdom after he returns encourage you to live as a citizen of heaven today?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 10: PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

STAND FIRM!

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Philippians 4:1-3

1. How does Paul address the Philippians?
2. What does he command them to do?
3. What threat does conflict have on standing firm?
4. Are there any conflicts in your life that are inhibiting you from standing firm and that you need to work out?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Philippians 4:4-9

1. What attitudes and behavior does Paul call the Philippians to have?
2. What reason do Christians have not to be anxious?
3. What is the result of prayer?
4. Do you have any anxieties in your life that you need to bring before God in prayer today?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read Matthew 6:25-34

1. What does Jesus teach about anxiety in this passage?
2. Considering this, what does anxiety show about one's view of God?
3. What does it mean for you to seek first God's kingdom in your life?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Philippians 4:8-9

1. What are the different things that we are to have fill our minds with?
2. How are you going at controlling your thoughts and making sure that you think about the things mentioned in this passage?
3. What is one thing you can do to help work on this during the week?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

1. How does Paul say we can stand firm in this passage?
2. What are Christians standing firm against?
3. What do we learn about prayer in this passage?
4. What 'piece of armor' most struck you when you read through this passage?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 10 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

Think of a time when you felt peaceful. What was it that brought about that peace?

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

What are the different commands that Paul gives in this passage that help Christians to stand firm?

How does disunity threaten standing firm?

What does Paul say the result of prayer will be?

What is the result of disciplining your mind?

How does consciously standing firm in the Lord pull us out of conflict with each other?

Are you someone who rejoices always? How can you develop consistent joy in your life despite the circumstances?

What are your main sources of anxiety in life? What comfort can you find in these verses?

How are you going in godly thinking in your life? How can you pursue and practice this more proactively?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 11: PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23

GRATITUDE, GLORY & GRACE

PERSONAL BIBLE READING GUIDE

MONDAY

Read Philippians 4:10-13

1. Why does Paul rejoice in the Philippians?
2. How does Paul describe himself in this passage?
3. Do you feel contentment despite your circumstances? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

TUESDAY

Read Psalm 131

1. How would you describe the attitude of the Psalmist here?
2. Consider the image of a weaned child. What does this teach you about contentment?
3. What things generally occupy your thoughts?
4. Do you struggle to find contentment in God? Why or why not?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10

1. What reason does Paul give for being content in this passage?
2. What warning does Paul give here?
3. Are you content with what you have? Or are you continually seeking more?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

THURSDAY

Read Philippians 4:14-23

1. How did the Philippians partner with Paul?
2. How does Paul describe their financial support of him?
3. How do you view your money? Are you willing to sacrifice what you have for the sake of the gospel?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

FRIDAY

Read Matthew 6:19-24

1. What does Jesus teach in this passage about money?
2. What do you think it means to 'lay up treasures in heaven'?
3. Who are you serving in your life? God or money? How does this show in the way that you live?

Pray (Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Ask)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

If missed any studies throughout the week, you can do them on these days.

WEEK 11 GC STUDY: PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23

Think about the world around you and the people in your life, what or where do they look for contentment?

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23

How does Paul describe himself here?

What is surprising about this?

Where does this contentment come from?

What is the link between joy and contentment?

How does Paul describe his partnership with the Philippian church here?

How do the Philippians view the money that they have?

How would you describe what biblical contentment is and what it looks like in everyday life?

Where do you look for contentment? Do you find it harder to be content when times are hard, or when they are good?

How have you been challenged by Paul's partnership with the Philippian church? Are you adopting a similar approach to Summerleas Christian Church and our mission partners?

How have these verses encouraged you to view your money in the way that the Philippians church do? What will taking such a view mean for you practically?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WHOLE FAMILY LEARNING (WFL) IDEAS FOR PHILIPPIANS

1. **Read** 'The Son of God Comes to Earth' (pages 95-96) from 'The Ology'

Read together Philippians 2:6-11.

Chat together about how Jesus is the best example of humility.

Pray together about what you have talked about.

2. **Read** 'We Grow a Little at a Time' (page 171) from 'The Ology'

Chat together about how we grow in our Christian life.

Then **pray** together about what you have talked about.

3. **Read** 'Running the Race to the End' (page 179) from 'The Ology'

Read Philippians 3:12-16.

Chat together about how Christians can persevere.

Pray together about what you have talked about.

4. **Read** 'God Talk to You and You Talk to God' (page 230) from 'The Ology'.

Read Philippians 4:6-7.

Talk about what you think it means and **pray** together.

5. Have a look at the video's at the Bible project video on Philippians:

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/philippians/>

You could **watch** these video's and **ask** what they learnt about the book of Philippians or found helpful and discussion can go from there.

Pray about what you have learnt.

SUMMERLEAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION PARTNERS

FELLOWSHIP OF OVERSEAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (FOCUS)

FOCUS is a Christian international student society that seeks to share the good news of Jesus with International students at the University of Hobart.



How Summerleas can help:

- Go along to Friday Night FOCUS and/or cook for them.

What: FREE food, fun, friendship and teaching from the Bible.

When: Fridays 6.00-8.30pm (if your GC is bringing food please bring it at 5:30pm)

Where: Sandy Bay Baptist Church, 239 Sandy Bay Road

- Pray:
 - Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to reach the nations.
 - Pray that we will be keen to support this strategic ministry and that it would grow us in our passion for God's great mission!
 - Pray for Luke and the leadership team that they will speak the truth in love.
 - Pray that God will be working in the hearts of those who come along to hear and understand that Jesus is their Lord and Saviour



DEREK AND ANNA BROTHERSON

with Liam, Jasmine and Juliet in South East Asia.

They are working in theological education and cross-cultural worker mobilization, as well as seeking to teach the good news of Jesus to the people they meet in their community.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the family as they face challenges of living in a different culture. Ask for good physical and mental health
- The student's at the colleges, and local Christian more generally that they will respond to Jesus' call to reach the lost and to take that news out.
- The millions of unreached Muslims in the country, that they might meet Christians, hear the good news, repent and believe.

Here are some ideas of how you can support them:

- Sign up to their email newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/OxaAD>
- Email them! Let them know you are praying and about what is going on here.
- Send them a care package
- Write them a card
- Skype them
- Pray for them