

Family Worship Guide

Philippians

(*I used the ESV, so some words may be slightly different than your translation)

Tips for Family Worship:

- Just do it – it may feel strange and weird the first time or two, but it is good and God will use it. Just do it and figure it out together.
- Make sure everyone participates! It will look a little different if you have young kids but find a way to get them involved. If your kid can't sing along to the songs listed but knows Jesus Loves Me, then sing it! You are not confined to the songs or the questions listed here!
- Cut out the distractions! Put your devices away (except for using them to access songs). Let this be a time where the Lord gets the all the attention from your whole family.
- Try to keep the time consistent, this will help in making family worship just a regular part of your day.
- Trust that the Lord will use it to deepen your faith and grow you closer to Him and each other.

Background information on the book of Philippians:

Written by: The apostle Paul. This is one of the prison Epistles that was most likely written during Paul's imprisonment in Rome.

Written to: The church at Philippi. Paul planted the church at Philippi during his second missionary journey (read Acts 16). The church at Philippi was one of Paul's biggest supporters, especially financially. He visited them at least twice during his third missionary journey and loved them dearly. Philippi was a Roman colony and its citizens were very proud of that fact. Being a citizen of a Roman colony they were afforded the same rights as a Roman citizen: they were under Roman law (which had benefits, as we see with Paul – for example he was saved from a beating because he was bound without being afforded a proper trial [Acts 22:23-29] and when he was planting the church at Philippi in his second missionary journey, he and Silas were beaten and imprisoned, and the magistrates panicked when they found out they were Roman citizens because it was illegal to beat or imprison Roman citizens without a proper trial [Acts 16:35-39]), exempt from some taxes, able to own land, and Roman citizenship. Paul understood their pride in their citizenship to his advantage in this letter where he told them their true citizenship was in heaven (Phil. 3:20).

Why was it written: 1) Primarily to thank them for their financial gift they sent to him in his imprisonment, (2) to tell them why he had sent Epaphroditus back to them (they had sent Epaphroditus to Paul to minister to him, but he had fallen really ill so Paul sent him back), (3) to inform them of his situation in Rome, (4) to exhort them to unity, and (5) to warn them against false teachers. – (this breakdown is a paraphrase from John MacArthur's)

Philippians 1:21 (ESV) "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Day 1

Prayer – Take some time to pray for each other, that the Lord would use this study to grow you in Christ.

Song(s) – His Mercy is More (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1GiZL60c80>)
Build My Life (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smrq6hc-vcU>)

Scripture – Philippians 1:1-11

Discussion Questions –

- What does this passage say about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
 - Who do Paul and Silas serve according to verse 1, and who did he address it to? What does this tell us about Jesus?
 - What does verse 2 tell us about God? (Where does grace and peace come from?) Who applies it to our life?

The Holy Spirit applies all the benefits of Christ to us, like grace and peace. We see that each member of the Trinity act together in all they do. Grace and Peace were ordained by the Father, accomplished for us by the Son and applied to us by the Spirit.

- What does verse 6 tell us about God? About Jesus?
- Where does the fruit of righteousness come from and who is it meant to glorify? (Verse 11)
- What does this passage say about people (Lost, Believers, Church as a whole)?
 - As Christians who are we according to Verse 1?
 - What is the “partnership in the gospel” that Paul refers to in verse 5? (Refer to the background info on page 1). What does this say about how important our financial support of the church and ministers are?
 - What is the good work that was started in the Philippians? (Verse 6)
 - All believers are partakers of what? (Verse 7) What does this say about us and about the lost? What is the only thing that separates us from the lost?
 - What does Paul pray for in verse 9? What does this mean? Why do we need both love and knowledge? What are these supposed to accomplish in us (Verse 10)?
 - What is the fruit of righteousness and why do we need to be filled with it? (Verse 11)
- What does this passage demand of me (How do I apply it)?
 - What is Paul doing for the church here? He is praying for the church with joy! Do you pray for the Church? Are you growing in love, seeking to know each other more and discern each other’s needs like Paul prayed for?
 - The Philippians were partners in the gospel with Paul, they supported him financially and joined him in the defense and confirmation of the Gospel by being living testimonies to the power of the Gospel. Are you partners in ministry? How are you leveraging your finances to help the work of the Kingdom? Are you being living testimonies, both by bearing the fruit of righteousness (living a righteous life) and by spreading the Gospel?
 - How does this passage lead you to worship God?

*Now that you have studied the passage, try and sum up the passage in one or two sentences.

Prayer – Take some time to pray for each other and the church using Paul’s prayer here as a guide. Praying scripture is a great way to grow one’s prayer life.

Day 2

Prayer – Take some time to pray for the lost around you. Pray for your church. Pray that God would speak to you through His Word.

Song(s) – Come Behold the Wonderous Mystery (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqWilp_KLUc)
Great Are You Lord (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQLMnPYoR9k>)

Scripture – Philippians 1:12-18a

Discussion Questions –

- What does this passage say about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
 - What does verse 13 tell us about who Paul's imprisonment was for? What does this tell us about Christ?
 - What does verse 14 tell us about God? How does He use situations like Paul's?
- What does this passage say about people (Lost, Believers, Church as a whole)?
 - What was Paul's situation ultimately for (12-13)? What does this tell us about our own life, even in the bad times?
 - What does verse 14 tell us is the response that many had to Paul's imprisonment? What does this tell us about how we should look to the example of other brothers and sisters? What does this tell us about how we should live our own life as examples?
 - Verses 15-18 tell us of people who preached Christ with two different motivations; what are they?
 - What motivation should we have for preaching Christ?
 - What does this tell us about how important motivations are? Were those who were preaching Christ out of selfish ambition sinning?
 - What does it say about Paul that he rejoiced that Christ was proclaimed even by people who wanted to do him harm? What was his great desire? What should our desire be? (Verse 18)
- What does this passage demand of me (How do I apply it)?
 - Paul leveraged his situation in prison to advance the Gospel. Are you leveraging your life for this same thing? Are you leveraging your job? Your family? This pandemic? Even if you are suffering in some way, are you leveraging it for the advancement of the Gospel for His Glory?
 - What are your motivations? Paul spoke about the motivations of those who were preaching the gospel and told us that some had selfish motivations, some were sinning even as they preached the Gospel! Why do you serve the Lord? Do you do it for the pat on the back, or because you sincerely love God and desire His Glory?
 - How does this passage lead you to worship God?

*Now that you have studied the passage, try and sum up the passage in one or two sentences. Make sure to write it down and save it.

Prayer – Take some time to pray that God would give you the wisdom and courage to leverage everything in your life for His Glory. Pray that He would keep you from sinful motivations and would use you to elevate His name alone. Pray the same thing for everyone in room with you.

Day 3

Prayer – Take some time to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world. Pray for their strength and that God would sustain them. Pray that God would speak to you through His Word.

Song(s) – Christ is Risen (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMX9CNgRJCM>)

Blessed Assurance (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bMqOv4q8dM>)

Scripture – Philippians 1:18b-26

Discussion Questions –

- What does this passage say about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
 - What does verse 19 tell us about the Holy Spirit?
 - What does it tell us about Christ that “to die is gain?” (Verse 21, 23)
 - What does it tell us about God that Paul is confident that Christ will be honored in his body whether by life or death? (Verse 20)

We see in this passage that the Holy Spirit helps and empowers the believer to live for Christ and that He will keep us in Christ until our death. The Father has given the Spirit to magnify and glorify the Son and His promise to us is that He will glorify Christ in our life and in our death. How amazing is it that God ensures that we will play a part in glorifying Christ and promises that once our work here is done and we are departed from this earth, we will be with Christ forever!

- What does this passage say about people (Lost, Believers, Church as a whole)?
 - What does verse 19 tell us about the prayers of the Philippians were going to help Paul? What does that tell us about prayer and why we should pray? (Verse 19)
 - What does verse 21 tell us about the reality a believer walks in? What should our attitude toward our life be? (Verse 22-23)
 - Paul was convinced that he would not die soon because he knew God had more for him to do, specifically to help the Philippians. What does this tell us about the life of a believer? Will we die before God is done with us here? If we are alive what does that mean?
 - Paul said that they would have reason to glory in Christ when he comes to them again. What does this teach us about how we should view the service of our pastors and leaders? (Verse 26)
- What does this passage demand of me (How do I apply it)?
 - Paul says that through the prayers of his brothers and through the help of the Spirit his situation would turn out for his deliverance. Prayer is powerful and God uses it as a means to accomplish many things in the kingdom. How is your prayer life?
 - To live is Christ and to die is gain. Is this your attitude in life? Are you using your life for fruitful labor in Christ? Do you fear death, or do you have faith that because of Christ, death has lost its sting and now it contains only joy for the believer? Are you eagerly awaiting the day you will be with Christ?
 - How does this passage lead you to worship God?

*Now that you have studied the passage, try and sum up the passage in one or two sentences. Make sure to write it down and save it.

Prayer – Pray that God would give you the attitude of Paul and that He would use your life as fruitful labor for Him. Pray that He would give you faith to persevere and a healthy longing for the day you will be with Christ.

Day 4

Prayer – Take some time to pray for those around the world who are in places where the Gospel has never been preached. Pray the Lord would send people to take His Gospel there and that many would be saved. Pray the Lord will speak to you through His Word.

Song(s) – Yet not I but through Christ in me (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zundjUFazfg>)
More like Jesus (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BhrCKhBFB4>)

Scripture – Philippians 1:27-30

Discussion Questions –

- What does this passage say about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
 - What does verse 27 tell us about Jesus? How worthy is He?
 - Paul desires unity among the Philippians. What does this say about God and His Gospel? What does God do for us (people from all over the world, different tribes and tongues) in Christ?
 - What does verse 29 tell us about God? Who grants belief and suffering?
- What does this passage say about people (Lost, Believers, Church as a whole)?
 - What does a life worthy of the gospel look like? (whole passage)
 - How are we to be whether someone is watching or not? (Verse 27)
 - What does verse 28 tell us?
 - What other things do you think are involved in living life in a manner worthy of the Gospel? The rest of Philippians will dive more into this. As you continue to study the book, remember that Paul is expounding on that kind of life.
 - What is a sure sign of destruction to our enemies but a sign of salvation to us? Is the call to live a life worthy of the Gospel just an individual call? How important is unity, striving for the faith, and boldness in the church? (Verse 27-28)
 - What does verses 29-30 tell us about us as believers? For whose sake was it granted to us to believe? For whose sake is it granted to us that we suffer persecution? How should this change the way we look at trials (Reference James 1:2-4 & 1 Peter 1:6-9)
- What does this passage demand of me (How do I apply it)?
 - Live a life worthy of the Gospel. What does your life look like right now? Are you living both publicly and privately in a manner worthy of the Gospel? What needs to change in your life?
 - Paul talks about standing firm together, showing us that unity in the Church is a command and is essential. Are you a faithful member of your church? Do you stand firm with them? Do you strive together for the faith? What needs to change in your life for you to be a more faithful part of the church?
 - How does this passage lead you to worship God?

*Now that you have studied the passage, try and sum up the passage in one or two sentences. Make sure to write it down and save it.

Prayer – Pray that God would empower you to live a life worthy of Him. Ask forgiveness for any sin you have yet to confess. Pray that God would use you as a part of the church to Glorify Him.

Day 5

Prayer – Take some time to reflect on God’s goodness to you and your family, then thank Him for His good gifts. Praise Him for who He is. Pray that He would continue being kind to you by speaking to you through His Word now.

Song(s) – Praise the Saviour (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPG7kEMy2Yk> , lyrics <https://genius.com/Cityalight-praise-the-saviour-lyrics>)

One Thing Remains (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAGNF8XEg18>)

Scripture – Philippians 2:1-5

Discussion Questions –

- What does this passage say about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
 - What does verse 1 tell us about Christ and the Spirit? (*The first verse uses the phrase “if there is any,” but Paul is not actually insinuating that it is possible that there are not. Instead he is presenting it in argument form and it really could be read “since there is x,y,z”*)
 - Verse 5 tells us “have this mind among yourselves which is **yours in Christ Jesus.**” What does this tell us about Christ’s mind?
- What does this passage say about people (Lost, Believers, Church as a whole)?
 - Verse 1 tells us that we have encouragement in Christ, comfort from love, participation in the Spirit and affection and sympathy. Take some time to discuss each one of these and what they mean for us.
 - The next verses are what Paul says we are to do because we have the things listed in verse 1. What are the things he lists?
 - What does it look like for the church to be of one mind? (Verses 2-4)
 - Humility seems to be the key to unity. What does it look like to be humble? (Verse 3)
 - What does verse 5 tell us about our access and ability to live and have the mind of Christ? How do we begin to do this and who helps us with that? (Verse 5)

God gave us the Holy Spirit and His Word. His word shows us the mind and heart of Christ and the Holy Spirit applies His Word. So when we read His Word, pray in response to His Word and set our hearts to obey His Word, the Holy Spirit empowers us to have the mind of Christ and live in obedience to Christ. This is a process that we will grow in our whole life. This is sanctification.

- What does this passage demand of me (How do I apply it)?
 - Have the same mind. Do you strive for unity in your family and in the church, or do you tend to be divisive? What do you/your church need to do to become more unified in obedience to the Lord and engagement with His mission?
 - Humble yourself. Humility is central to the Christian life, and it is one of the hardest things for us. Do you struggle with pride? In what areas do you need to humble yourself?
 - How does this passage lead you to worship God?

*Now that you have studied the passage, try and sum up the passage in one or two sentences. Make sure to write it down and save it.

Prayer – Pray for Hagood/your church – that they be of one mind and one mission, that they would be unified in Christ. Pray that you would be a part of that. Pray that God would teach you where you need to be humble yourself and help you to be obedient.

Day 6

Prayer – Today’s passage is all about the Gospel. Take some time to talk about the Gospel and pray that the Lord would deepen your understanding, appreciation and joy in the Gospel as you read His Word today.

Song(s) – Come Behold the Wonderous Mystery (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqWilp_KLUc)
The reward of His Suffering (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2xLKp8B09o>)

Scripture – Philippians 2:5-11

Discussion Questions –

- What does this passage say about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
 - What do verses 6 and 9 tell us about God?
 - Take some time to list out each of the ways Christ humbled Himself in this passage.
 - What does it mean that He emptied Himself?

It is crucial to understand that this does not mean that the Son ceased to be God. Rather, He did not consider equality with God as something to be grasped and took the form of a servant, took on human flesh. He had the honor, glory, praise, power, etc. of God, because He is God, yet He humbled Himself to take on flesh and took it on in such a way that “he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.” (Isaiah 53:2) Everything it means to be God He was and is, yet He took upon himself a human form, soul and nature so that He was and is truly God and truly man. He concealed His glory, power and honor for a time in His incarnation so that He could walk as one of us. What an act of humility! To take on flesh, the Creator taking on the form of the created. But we know his humiliation did not stop there, it continued to the cross.

- This whole passage is a beautiful exposition of the Gospel. Take some time to talk about each verse and how it is essential to the Gospel. Pause and praise Christ for what He has done for us.
- What does it mean that this is to the glory of God the Father? (Verse 11)
- What does this passage say about people (Lost, Believers, Church as a whole)?
 - If this is how Christ humbled Himself, how do we follow His example?
 - What do verses 9-11 tell us about believers and unbelievers?
- What does this passage demand of me (How do I apply it)?
 - Christ died for us, and we are called to lay down our lives, take up our crosses and follow Him. Are you taking up your cross, or are you living life for yourself? What needs to change in your life? What sin needs to be killed in order for you to look more like the one who died for you?
 - Every knee will bow and every tongue confess. Some will do this joyfully because they will be bowing and confessing the name of the one who they love and who loves them, others will be forced down by the weight of His glory and confess His name with dread and sorrow because they have not believed upon Him and instead rejected Him. How often do you bow yourself before the Lord and just confess how amazing He is? Who do you know who is lost around you? Will you share the Gospel with them?
 - How does this passage lead you to worship God?

*Now that you have studied the passage, try and sum up the passage in one or two sentences. Make sure to write it down and save it.

Prayer – Simply praise God and thank Him for His Gospel. Then ask that you be empowered to be living witnesses to His great Gospel.

Prayer – Take some time to pray for each other out loud, let each other know what to pray for. Then pray God would speak to you all through His word.

Song(s) – Sovereign Over Us (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B66DHRy1ITs>)

The goodness of Jesus (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ncn_1hSmXps)

Scripture – Philippians 2:12-18

Discussion Questions –

- What does this passage say about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
 - What does verse 13 tell us about God? What does it mean that He works in us? What does he take good pleasure in?
 - If we are children of God, what does that make God? (Verse 15)
 - Verse 16 tells us to hold fast to the word of life. Who gave us the word of life? Who is the Life?
 - Verse 16 talks about the day of Christ. What happens on the day of Christ?
- What does this passage say about people (Lost, Believers, Church as a whole)?
 - What does it mean to work out our salvation? What does Paul mean when He says with fear and trembling? (Verse 12)

This is not referring to our justification but rather to sanctification. We cannot work out being justified before God, that was accomplished fully and finally on the cross. However, sanctification is a process. Notice how it says that God works in us to will and work. Sanctification is still a work of God in us. So to work out our salvation refers to us doing the good works/obedience that comes with saving faith like James tells us, faith without works is dead. In our obeying we are working out our salvation, always with the understanding that it is God who provides the good works for us (Eph. 2:10), God who gives us the faith and ability to obey, and God who works in us to change our hearts and minds to be like Christ as we obey.

- How does doing all things without grumbling or disputing/complaining make us blameless and innocent in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation? (Verses 14-15)
- How do we shine like stars? What does holding fast to the word of life have to do with shining like stars? (Verses 15-16)
- What does it say about Paul that he would rejoice and be glad about their faith even if it meant that he suffer, “be poured out as a drink offering?” What does it look like to follow his example?
- What does this passage demand of me (How do I apply it)?
 - Obey. Paul tells the Philippians to obey not only in his presence. Do you obey the word to look good for people, or do you obey it please God?
 - Do not grumble and complain. Do you have an attitude of humility and thanksgiving, do you grumble and complain? What needs to change in your life so that you may be “blameless and innocent?”
 - How does this passage lead you to worship God?

*Now that you have studied the passage, try and sum up the passage in one or two sentences. Make sure to write it down and save it.

Prayer – Pray that God would reveal to you what you need to change and equip you to shine like stars in this world. Pray that your lost friends would see Jesus in you.

Day 8

Prayer – Pray for those who are being affected spiritually and physically by the current crisis. Ask God to comfort them and show Himself to them in the midst of this pandemic. Then pray that He would speak to you through His Word.

Song(s) – In Christ Alone (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3ExMwj9Efw>)
Blessed Assurance (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bMqOv4q8dM>)

Scripture – Philippians 2:19-30

Discussion Questions –

- What does this passage say about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)?
 - What does verse 27 tell us about God? Who is in charge of sickness and healing?
 - What does it say about God that he brings brothers and sisters alongside us to support us like the Philippians and Epaphroditus did for Paul?
 - What does it say about the work of Christ that Epaphroditus risked his life for it? (Verse 29-30)
- What does this passage say about people (Lost, Believers, Church as a whole)?
 - What was the relationship between Paul and Timothy? What does this model for believers? (Verses 19-24)
 - How does Paul describe Epaphroditus in verse 25? What does this tell us about how Paul views a believer? What does it mean to be a soldier for Christ?
 - What does verse 26 tell us about Epaphroditus and what does it tell us about how we should relate to our brothers and sisters?
 - How did Paul tell the church at Philippi to receive Epaphroditus? Why were they to honor him? What does that tell us about how we are to treat one another and especially those who minister to the church? (Verses 28-29)
- What does this passage demand of me (How do I apply it)?
 - Make disciples. Paul and Timothy serve as a model of discipleship for us, Paul poured into Timothy as a father to a son, and then sent him out. Who are you pouring into/discipling? Do you have someone doing that for you? We need to both be fathers and mothers to some, sons and daughters to some, and brothers and sisters to some. Are you seeking to be these things in the family of God?
 - Honor those who serve. Epaphroditus was to be honored because of his service to the Gospel. The Bible is explicit that we are to honor those who serve the church and lead. Have you honored your leaders?
 - How does this passage lead you to worship God?

*Now that you have studied the passage, try and sum up the passage in one or two sentences. Make sure to write it down and save it.

Prayer – Take some time to reflect on those people in your life that have helped you grow in your faith. Thank God for them and pray for them specifically, that God would continue to sustain them and use them. Then pray for the leaders of your church. Finally, pray that God would use you to impact and lead others into a deeper relationship with Christ. Ask Him to provide someone for you to disciple.