



REJOICE! PHILIPPIANS

- Introduction
- Read the Bible in 2 Years
- Daily reading Notes: Rejoice! Philippians

Note: The Rejoice! Philippians series starts at week 4 following the three-week EV Grow - 21 Years and Looking Ahead series.

Week	Passage	Theme
4	Philippians 1:1-11	Partners in the Gospel
5	Philippians 1:12-26	The Priority of the Gospel
6	Philippians 1:27-2:11	Worthy of the Gospel of Christ
7	Philippians 2:12-30	Serving Others for their Salvation
8	Philippians 3:1-11	The Surpassing Worth of Knowing Christ Jesus
9	Philippians 3:12-4:1	Pressing on Towards the Goal
10	Philippians 4:2-23	Rejoice in the Lord Always

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the	names	of your	family	and frie	ends he	ere:

TERM 4 - 2017

How to use this book:

1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

2. GROWTH GROUPS

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. CHURCH

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

SIGN UP FOR THESE NOTES AS A DAILY EMAIL AT: www.evchurch.info/series

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INTRODUCTION: PHILIPPIANS

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" – Philippians 1:27

Philippi was the first European city to ever receive the gospel. God had specially called Paul to preach there, intent on extending the gospel to the ends of the earth. Paul visited this Roman colony c.50AD, during his second missionary journey (Acts 16 recounts his time there). Philippi was the leading city of Macedonia, and was modeled on Rome, the capital of the Empire. Despite the expected opposition to any belief that would challenge complete loyalty to Caesar, God had determined to save. The first believers in Philippi were a diverse bunch to say the least! From the likes of a rich fashion designer and a Roman jailer, the church in Philippi was born!

It is to this congregation that Paul writes this uniquely warm and personal letter. Unlike some of Paul's other letters, he did not write to correct any serious sin or misunderstanding. The Philippians were partners with Paul in the gospel work, and had sent Paul financial support through a man named Epaphroditus. Paul partially wrote simply to express his gratitude to God for their partnership, and to inform the church that he was sending Epaphroditus back to them, along with Timothy (1:3-8, 3:19-30). Paul loved the Philippians deeply, longing for them "with the affection of Christ Jesus" (1:8).

And yet, while they were on track in the Christian life, the Philippians still needed encouragement. As Roman citizens, their allegiance to Christ over Caesar brought opposition (1:29-30). Paul understood this opposition well, writing the letter from prison, not knowing whether he would be executed or exonerated (1:20). There was also opposition from within. While some were preaching Christ to cause harm to Paul (1:15), the Philippians faced false teaching from some who claimed to follow Jesus, but pushed adherence to certain religious rituals for their righteousness before God (3:1-11). All this brought pressure on the church, much like we feel today, only in a far more amplified manner.

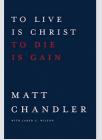
In the face of this opposition and struggle, Paul had one big thing to say – the big message of the letter: "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (1:27 – This is the verse you should underline in your Bible!). The Philippians were not first and foremost Roman citizens. They were citizens of Heaven. Paul was sure of their right standing before God, and was sure that God would bring His work in them to completion until the Day of Christ (1:6, 2:13). Jesus had guaranteed their future resurrection

with Him in glory. What was crucial, then, was that they continued to live for Jesus now, until that final judgment day – working out their salvation with fear and trembling. This meant standing firm together in the gospel (1:27-28). This was Paul's great burden for the Philippians. If they were going to make it until the end, they needed to do it together.

Throughout the letter, Paul provided the Philippians with examples of believers to imitate – people who lived this gospel-worthy and kingdom-minded kind of life. Timothy, Epaphroditus, and Paul himself were men to be imitated. But the central example comes at the centre of the letter, in a beautiful hymn, highlighting the humility of Jesus (2:6-11). He, who for all eternity enjoyed equality with God, humbled Himself, by adding to Himself a human nature – that He might die a humiliating death on a cross. Jesus Christ provided His people with the perfect example of the sort of humility required if we are to stand firm together. And since God had exalted Jesus to the highest place in all the universe, the Philippians could take heart that they followed the true Lord and King, who would one day return to bring about resurrected glory (3:20-21).

This solid hope in the face of opposition meant that Paul and the Philippians could rejoice! This is the constant refrain throughout the letter – for in any and every circumstance, those who know Jesus have a treasure and hope greater than any struggle. So... "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (4:4).

SUGGESTED READING



To Live Is Christ To Die Is Gain by Matt Chandler

In this disruptively inspiring book, Matt Chandler offers tangible ways to develop a faith of pursuing, chasing, knowing, and loving Jesus, using the letter to the Philippians as his road map. If we clean up our lives but don't get Jesus, we've lost! So let the goal be Him. To live is Christ, and to die is gain. Therefore, our lives should be lived to Him, through Him, for Him, with Him, about Him – everything should be about Jesus.

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible - amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, "He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, "You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God's purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It's totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term's suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

Week 1	Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2	
Week 2	Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4	
Week 3	Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6	
Week 4	Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9	

Week 5	Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11	
Week 6	Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13	
Week 7	Exodus 11-15, Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15	
Week 8	Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17	
Week 9	Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19	
Week 10	Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21	
YEAR 1:	TERM 2	
Week 1	Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24	
Week 2	Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26	
Week 3	Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28	
Week 4	Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2	
Week 5	Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4	
Week 6	Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6	
Week 7	Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8	
Week 8	Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10	
Week 9	Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12	
Week 10	Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14	
YEAR 1:	TERM 3	
Week 1	Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16	
Week 2	Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18	
Week 3	Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20	
Week 4	Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22	
Week 5	Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24	
Week 6	1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26	
Week 7	1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28	
Week 8	1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2	
Week 9	2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4	
Week 10	2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6	

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

YEAR 1: 1	ERM 4	
Week 1	1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8	
Week 2	1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83;1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10	
Week 3	1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12	
Week 4	2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14	
Week 5	2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16	
Week 6	1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2	
Week 7	1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4	
Week 8	1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6	
Week 9	2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8	
Week 10	2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10	
YEAR 2: 1	ERM 1	
Week 1	2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12	
Week 2	2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14	
Week 3	Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16	
Week 4	Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2	
Week 5	Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4	
Week 6	Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6	
Week 7	Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8	
Week 8	Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10	
Week 9	Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12	
Week 10	Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14	
YEAR 2: 1	ERM 2	
Week 1	Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16	
Week 2	Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2	
Week 3	Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4	
Week 4	Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6	
Week 5	Isajah 28-32: Psalms 136-138: Isajah 33-37: Luke 7-8	

Week 6	Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10	
Week 7	Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145;Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12	
Week 8	Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14	
Week 9	Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16	
Week 10	Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20	
YEAR 2: 1	TERM 3	
Week 1	Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1	
Week 2	Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40	
Week 3	Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50	
Week 4	Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6	
Week 5	Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10	
Week 6	Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20	
Week 7	Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30	
Week 8	Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3	
Week 9	Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4	
Week 10	Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon	
YEAR 2: 7	FERM 4	
Week 1	Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7	
Week 2	Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13	
Week 3	Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5	
Week 4	Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John 1-6; 2 John; 3 John	
Week 5	Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5	
Week 6	Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10	
Week 7	Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21	
Week 8	Haggai 1-2; John 1-12	
Week 9	Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17	
Week 10	Malachi 1-4; John 18-21	

WEEK 4 PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

DAY 1

Acts 16 documents the arrival of the gospel in Philippi by the Apostle Paul, and the birth of the Philippian Church.

Read Acts 16:11-40

1. In this account, we learn of God's powerful work in the lives of three very different people. How would you describe the composition of the Philippian church in its earliest form?

2. We receive insight into the religious situation in this Roman colony, Philippi, in verses 19-24. What were Paul and Silas charged for, and what does this reveal about the Roman authority's tolerance of Jews and of Christianity?

Prayer: The Philippian church was born in an environment that would prove hostile to their faith, but God was powerful to save, and Jesus is worth following! Ask that God would continue to save – creating more churches in Australia and around the world, despite any hostility we might face. Following Jesus is worth it!

Partners in the Gospel

DAY 2

Read Philippians 1:1-2

1.	What can we learn about this letter from its introduction (i.e. the author,
	the recipients, etc)?

2. How does Paul describe himself compared to his description of the Philippian Christians?

3. While Paul and Timothy are servants of Christ Jesus (more literally "slaves"), the Philippians are God's holy people ("saints"). And yet, these were just average and everyday believers in Jesus. What does this tell us about what it means to be a Christian?

Prayer: These verses set a tone for the rest of the letter. Because of the gospel of Jesus, and His messengers who bring it to us, we can be seen as holy and blameless in God's sight. Who first shared the gospel with you? Give thanks to God for them and for the wonderful standing we have before God in Jesus.

WEEK 4 PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

DAY 3

Read Philippians 1:3-6

- 1. Why does Paul thank God with such joy when he remembers the Philippians?
- 2. Read 4:14-20. How were the Philippians partners of Paul in the gospel?
- 3. How are you living as a partner in the work of the gospel? Who are you partnering with?
- 4. In 1:6, what is Paul confident in? Now notice who Paul's confidence depends on (see also 2:13). How is this an encouragement for you to keep persevering in Jesus?

Prayer: Thank God for His work in your life. Ask Him to align your life with His purposes, and to help you to be a faithful partner in the work of the gospel with other Christians and with church.

Partners in the Gospel

DAY 4

Read Philippians 1:7-8

1.	What is it that Paul 'feels' (actually, 'thinks' is a better translation) about
	the Philippians? (Hint: see verses 3-6).

	2.	On what bas	sis does he	think and feel	this joy and	confidence	about them?
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- 3. We receive a great insight into the heart of Paul and his affection for the church in these verses. Why is seeing others share in God's grace such a powerful drive for joy and affection?
- 4. Often we are prone to grumbling, rather than joyful thanksgiving (see 2:14). How might you become more focused on the work of God's grace in your own life and in the lives of others?

Prayer: Ask God to fill you with all joy and thanksgiving, being full of the affection of Christ Jesus for others. Pray about your answer to Question 4.

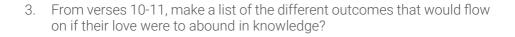
WEEK 4 PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

DAY 5

Read Philippians 1:9-11

1.	Paul's letters regularly include a prayer before the body of the letter. What
	is Paul's prayer for the Philippians? (It is worth comparing this prayer with
	Ephesians 1:15-20, Colossians 1:9-12, 1 Thessalonians 1:11-12.)

2.	It is striking that their love must abound in knowledge. Why is knowledge
	necessary for real love?



4. Paul wants the Philippians to live righteous lives in preparation for the day of Christ – the Day of Judgment. But where does this righteousness ultimately come from? (Verse 11)

Prayer: Why not pray this prayer from 1:9-11 for yourself, for other Christians in your life, and for our church as a whole.

Partners in the Gospel

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 5 PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

DAY 1

Read Philippians 1:12-14

1.	What a	are Paul's	circumst	ances, ai	nd whv	is he	e in t	hat	situation?
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- 2. Here is a clear example of God using bad circumstances even the evil of men for good (see also Genesis 50:20). What good comes from Paul's imprisonment?
- 3. There is a strangeness to verse 14. Why would Paul's chains create confidence in the Christians around him to speak? When have you had the greatest confidence to speak up about Jesus?
- 4. What might hinder you from speaking up about Jesus currently?

Prayer: Pray for boldness and confidence to speak about Jesus, asking God to make you cherish the honour of Christ more than your own honour.

The Priority of the Gospel

DAY 2

Read Philippians 1:15-18

1.	Paul talks of two groups of people who are proclaiming Jesus. For what
	two different reasons are they preaching?

2. Here we are introduced to some of Paul's opponents, and there will be other opponents throughout the book (1:28, 3:2). Despite being imprisoned and having opponents seeking to inflict further harm on him, what is Paul focused on and what does he rejoice in?

3. How might Paul's focus be an encouragement and challenge to you?

Prayer: Praise God for the Christ-centred, gospel-centred example of Paul. Ask Him for that same depth of understanding of the importance of the gospel of Christ that we might be able to rejoice in all circumstances, as long as the gospel continues to go out.

WEEK 5 PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

DAY 3

Read Philippians 1:18b-26

- 1. Today will we focus on Verse 19. In this verse, Paul is convinced of three things. What are they?
- 2. Note that here the Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament, the Spirit is intimately associated with both the Father and the Son, being referred to as the Spirit of God (Romans 8:9) and the Spirit of Christ. Additionally, both the Father and the Son have sent Him into the world (John 14:16-17 and 15:26). We may be able to distinguish Him from the Father and the Son, but never separate Him. What do we see that the Spirit is doing here in Philippians 1:19? (Note also that 'deliverance' is the same word for 'salvation').
- 3. Paul eagerly expects to be vindicated in the heavenly court before God, because of the prayers of God's people and the help of the Spirit of Jesus to help him remain faithful to Jesus. How will being convinced of these same things change the way you think about:
 - a. Prayer?
 - b. Suffering?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for the power of prayer, and the powerful work of the Spirit in our lives. Ask that we would be, as Paul was, faithful to Jesus until the end.

The Priority of the Gospel

DAY 4

Read Philippians 1:18b-26

1. What is Paul's major concern in verses 20-21?

2. Can you say along with Paul, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"? How would this kind of mindset change the way you approach things like church, marriage, work, money, the future, church planting, your house, ministry, earthly treasures and securities?

3. Re-read verses 22-26. Why does Paul end up desiring to stay on earth, away from Jesus? How is this a challenge to the way you use your time, energy and resources?

Prayer: Ask God to help you see your life as being about Jesus, and to have the same concern as Paul – for the good of others in Jesus.

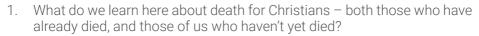
WEEK 5 PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

DAY 5

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

Jesus transformed Paul's life, and completely stripped him of all fear of death! Today we will consider again the confidence Christians can have even in the face of death.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.



2. How does this give you courage to face death?

Prayer: By His resurrection, Jesus has destroyed our greatest tyrant, death. Everyone with faith in Him has the hope of eternal life! Praise God for this wonderful news. How can you maximise your efforts in seeing more people know this great hope? Ask God to help you.

The Priority of the Gospel

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 6 PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:11

DAY 1

Read Philippians 1:27-30

1. Looking back at verses 23-26, what does the 'Whatever happens' in verse 27 refer to?

- 2. Verse 27 contains the first command of the letter. The sentences that follow then spell out what obedience to this command looks like. From verses 27-28, what does conduct worthy of the gospel of Christ look like?
- 3. What is the connection between the gospel and the unity described as 'standing firm together as one'?
- 4. Once again the issue of opposition and suffering is raised. How is this actually a sign of their salvation?

Prayer: In a world opposed to the Lord Jesus, surely His followers will also face opposition while we wait for glory. It is therefore so important that we stand firm together in the gospel! Pray for our church, that we will love and support one another, and push each other to hold firm to Jesus, come whatever may.

Worthy of the Gospel of Christ

DAY 2

The chapter division that begins here is rather unfortunate, because it can lead us to think that chapter 2 is the beginning of a new section. In fact, chapter 2 continues to fill out what living worthily of the gospel looks like (1:27) considering the opposition they are facing (1:28-30).

Read Philippians 2:1-4

- 1. Once again the focus is on living in unity. Why is unity so critical for the Philippians?
- 2. Paul is not asking them to be united with those they disagree with about Jesus; rather, he is asking that the Philippians, as a church of the Lord Jesus, live in unity together. How might you live out verse 2 in the life of our church?
- 3. Verses 3-4 set an incredibly high standard for Christian living, but an undeniably beautiful and right understanding of how life should be lived! What must be rejected, and what must be pursued, if we are to live in harmony together?

Prayer: Consider how you might live more focused on others. Ask God to help you, knowing that He is pleased with this prayer and loves to give good things to His children!

WEEK 6 PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:11

DAY 3

Read Philippians 2:5-11

quo the inca they	ses 6-11 are generally recognised as an existing hymn that Paul is of the implications are that, only 30 years after the earthly life of Jesus, church agreed on these facts concerning Jesus' pre-existence, deity, arnation, death and exaltation. These things were so agreed upon that y had been shaped into this song. These verses are so profound that we spend a few days on them.
1.	How are verses 5-11 connected to verses 1-4?
2.	What was Jesus' mindset that Paul wanted the Philippians to have?
3.	How are verses 6-8 the supreme example of the command in verses 3 and 4?
Jes	ayer: Ask God that this humble, sacrificial, others-focused mindset of sus would become your mindset more and more. Pray this also for our urch.

Worthy of the Gospel of Christ

DAY 4

Read Philippians 2:5-11

1. This hymn provides us with something of a history of the Lord Jesus. Use the line below to make a timeline of the events of Jesus' life as noted in the hymn.

2. Verses 6-7 consider the movement of Jesus as God in Heaven, to His incarnation (when He became a man). From verse 7, how did Jesus 'make Himself nothing'?

3. It is critical to notice here that Jesus did not cease to be God – He remained in very nature God, but took on a human nature also. He did this in obedience to His Father, that He might die to save us. What does Jesus' incarnation and death reveal to us about the character of God?

Prayer: Praise God that He is a God of love! Praise Him for the humble obedience of His Son – the eternal Son of God who would become a man to die. Ask God to help you become more and more like our Saviour.

WEEK 6 PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:11

DAY 5

Read Philippians 2:5-11

- 1. What did God do in response to Jesus' humility in being a servant and dying obediently? (See verses 9-11)
- 2. Read Isaiah 45:22-25. Who is it in these verses that men would bow the knee to? How are these verses then used in the Philippians 2 hymn, and what is therefore being taught about Jesus?
- 3. What place does Jesus now occupy in the universe?
- 4. What place does He occupy in your life?
- 5. Are there any particular ways you could apply verse 5?

Prayer: Pray that more and more people will bow the knee to the Lord of the Universe, Jesus. Pray that God would help you to live in service of others, and humbly obey your Lord.

Worthy of the Gospel of Christ

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 7 PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30

DAY 1

Read Philippians 2:12-13

- 1. What does the word 'therefore' indicate about these verses and the verses that precede them?
- 2. What does it mean to work out your salvation? (See 1:27-28)
- 3. Notice that we are to do this 'with fear and trembling'. At the beginning of this section of the letter (1:27-2:18 is all concerning one issue) Paul commanded the Philippians not to fear (1:28). How is fear in 2:12 different, and why is it a right fear?
- 4. Having been told that the Philippians need to work out their salvation, how does verse 13 then provide comfort and assurance?
- 5. What do you think God's "good purpose" is that He is achieving in us? (Chapter 1:9-11 might shed some light.)

Prayer: Praise God that He is at work within us to live out our salvation. Ask for His help to live in such a way that is pleasing to Him.

Serving Others for their Salvation

DAY 2

Read Philippians 2:14-16

- 1. In verse 15, there is an echo of Deuteronomy 32:5, where Moses declared the Israelites to be a warped and crooked generation because of their continued rebellion and grumbling against God. The grumbling referred to in today's passage is more likely between the members of the church. However, while our grumbling might not be addressed to God, in what sense is our grumbling still actually our problem with God?
- 2. In Deuteronomy 32, the Israelites were the warped and crooked generation. Who is Paul referring to here?
- 3. What would be the result of the Philippians living as children of God, "without grumbling or arguing"? (See verses 15b-16)
- 4. What would their faithful living and witness to the non-Christian world prove about Paul's labour in the gospel among them?

Prayer: It is easy to be discontent and dissatisfied, and therefore to grumble – including with members of our church. If you have done this, confess it to God, ask for forgiveness, and for His help to live as "children of God without fault" and a faithful witness to the non-Christian world.

WEEK 7 PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30

DAY 3

In 2:17, Paul moves from speaking about the way he has run and laboured for the Philippians during his life (verse 16), to speaking of the very real possibility of having to die because of his ministry (see 1:20).

Read Philippians 2:17-18

- 1. Paul uses the Old Testament imagery of worship language in verse 17. He describes the Philippians' faith in terms of sacrifice and service. How does our trust in Jesus overflow into 'sacrifice' for God?
- 2. What would be Paul's response if he were to die, "poured out like a drink offering", for the Philippians? Why would he respond like this?
- 3. It is striking that Paul would expect the Philippians to be glad and rejoice too! How has the gospel completely transformed the way Christians are to think about their lives, what they are to be about, and also death?

Prayer: Pray to God for the same kingdom-mindedness of Paul – that we also would consider our lives as being about serving Jesus, and that, as long as the gospel progresses – even our deaths ought not stop us rejoicing!

Serving Others for their Salvation

DAY 4

Read Philippians 2:19-24

1.	Why does Paul wish to send Timothy to the Philippians, and what is it
	particularly about Timothy that makes him a good man for the job?

2. Look again at verses 20 and 21. How are these verses connected? When read together, what might we conclude are the interests of Jesus Christ?

3. Notice here the reality of the personal cost that comes with pursuing the interests of Jesus; it necessarily means not pursuing our own interests, so that we might give ourselves to the work of the Lord. How are Paul and Timothy great examples of Christ-likeness for us to imitate, and how might you imitate them today and in the coming week?

Prayer: Praise God that our Lord Jesus would be deeply concerned for His people's faith and maturity. Ask God to make you increasingly concerned with those things which matter to the Lord Jesus.

WEEK 7 PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30

DAY 5

Read Philippians 2:25-30

- 1. What historical/situational information can we learn from these verses about Epaphroditus, the Philippians and Paul?
- 2. What words would you use to describe Epaphroditus?
- 3. Why was he someone that should be honoured? (See verses 29-30)
- 4. Once again we get insight into the deep love and care that Paul and this church shared for each other. How is this love an encouragement for you, and what does it teach you about being a member of God's church?

Prayer: Praise God for the great gift of other Christians, and that we can partner together in the work of the gospel. Ask God to fill you with all the affection of Christ for your brothers and sisters in the Lord. Pray for some of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Serving Others for their Salvation

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 8 PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

DAY 1

Read Philippians 3:1-3

- 1. What do we learn of the Philippians' situation from verses 2-3 that makes Paul's command in verse 1 so striking?
- 2. Far from insensitively commanding an unrealistic happiness while the Philippians face hardship, Paul expects that these Christians really can and should have a solid joy in the Lord, even during their adverse circumstances. Read 1:15-18 and 2:17-18 again. What made Paul able to rejoice even through earthly hardship?
- 3. How might it be a safeguard for Paul to keep telling them to rejoice? What does this tells us about the need to keep hearing the truth of God, again and again, throughout our lives?

Prayer: Ask God to keep the reality of our salvation and future glory ever before your eyes – that regardless of your circumstances, you might be able to rejoice in the Lord Jesus, our Saviour from Heaven.

The Surpassing Worth of Knowing Christ Jesus

DAY 2

Read Philippians 3:1-4

1. Verse 2 contains a strong warning against people who would advocate false teaching and thinking. What do we learn about these people?

2. In verse 3 Paul distinguishes between "we" (himself and the Philippians), and the false teachers. What characterises Paul and the Philippians, and by contrast, what does this teach us about the ways of the false believers?

3. Note that 'flesh' is not necessarily a negative concept (see John 1:14 – Jesus Himself took on 'flesh'). It is the earthly, bodily nature of humanity, which is often associated with indwelling sin. Yet true Christianity cannot be characterised by outward acts of the flesh – it is a spiritual relationship and life with God. How does this challenge other religions or lifestyles that claim to be spiritual through their rituals, fasting, meditating or the like?

Prayer: As Christians, we worship God by His Spirit, rather than by our own outward works drawing us near to Him. Praise God that this truly is a relationship, based on grace, not works! Ask God that your confidence may never be in your works, but always in God's grace to you in Christ.

WEEK 8 PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

DAY 3

Read Philippians 3:1-11

- 1. Today we will focus on verses 4-7. Reviewing verses 3 and 4, why does Paul proceed from there by giving a catalogue of his religious perfection and heritage as a Jew?
- 2. What things do people do or not do that make them feel worthy before God? Are there things in your life that you still look to for your confidence before God, other than the righteousness of Jesus credited to you by faith?

3. What conclusion does Paul draw about his ability to be confident in his outward religious life? (See verse 7). How is this helpful for us as we continually resist the pull towards trusting in our own efforts?

Prayer: Thank God for the gift of righteousness by faith in Christ. Repent of any confidence you place "in the flesh", and ask God for great confidence to approach Him because of Jesus Christ alone (Hebrews 10:19-22).

The Surpassing Worth of Knowing Christ Jesus

DAY 4

Today we will focus on verses 7-9, where Paul unpacks why all the earthly religious accomplishments in the world (verses 4-6) are actually worthless.

Read Philippians 3:1-9

- 1. Imagine that a zealous first century Jew was reading this passage. What would be their response to Paul's attitude to his Jewish background?
- 2. How does Paul's religious achievements make it all the more shocking that he considers them garbage (more literally 'dung') compared to gaining and knowing Christ?
- 3. Verse 9 reveals why gaining/knowing Christ is so profoundly excellent in Paul's eyes. How is the Christian faith here utterly opposed to and infinitely more beautiful than religious law keeping?
- 4. What does Paul think is the most valuable thing in life? How would adopting Paul's value system affect the way you live?

Prayer: Ask God to help you treasure Jesus above all things, so that you might rejoice in Him regardless of your circumstances (3:1).

WEEK 8 PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

DAY 5

Read Philippians 3:10-11



2. What part of Paul's desire to be like Jesus is particularly striking?

3. Paul doesn't just want to suffer for the sake of it. Being a Christian means following Christ who first suffered, then entered glory. This will be the shape of the Christian life in a world that is hostile towards Him and His ways (see 1:28-29). So... why is it so important that Jesus' resurrection and the promise of our resurrection are front and centre in our minds?

Prayer: Praise God that as Christians we know Christ, and will participate in His resurrection! Ask your Father for the courage to participate in Jesus' sufferings while we wait for Heaven.

The Surpassing Worth of Knowing Christ Jesus

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 9 PHILIPPIANS 3:12-4:3

DAY 1

Read Philippians 3:12-14

- 1. What is "all this" referring to in verse 12? (Hint: See verses 9-11.)
- 2. What is your main goal in life the thing that drives you above all else? How does your life reflect this goal?

- 3. How did Paul's goal for the future shape his daily life?
- 4. The gospel of grace and hope had wonderfully shaped Paul. He was sure of his acceptance by God and entry into the Kingdom of Heaven, even despite his present imperfections. Do you share this same assurance? How does this help you "press on towards the prize"?

Prayer: Praise God for the solid hope we have in Christ! Ask Him to help you forget what is behind, and strain toward the prize of resurrection in glory with Christ Jesus.

Pressing on Towards the Goal

DAY 2

Read Philippians 3:12-17

- 1. Looking at verse 15 and the verses preceding it, how will a mature person view their life now?
- 2. What is it that we have already attained, which we must live up to? What does it look like to live up to this? (Verse 16)
- 3. Throughout this letter Paul has pressed the Philippians to consider the example of others: Jesus (2:5), Timothy (2:19), Epaphroditus (2:25), and now Paul himself and any others who live like him (3:17). Who has been an example to you of Kingdom-minded living? How?
- 4. To whom do you have the opportunity to be an example of Kingdom-mindedness, and how might you do this?

Prayer: Ask God to help you follow the example of other faithful brothers and sisters, and for you to be an example to others of Kingdom-mindedness.

WEEK 9 PHILIPPIANS 3:12-4:3

DAY 3

Read Philippians 3:17-21

1. What can we learn about the people Paul mentions in verse 18	1.	What	can we	learn	about t	he p	people	Paul	mentions	in verse	18?
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2. What would living as an "enemy of the cross" look like? What does this tell us about the importance of the cross?

- 3. How are the 'we' (i.e., Paul and the Philippians) contrasted with these people? How are they different?
- 4. One significant difference lies in the different understandings of the place of the physical human body. Looking back in 3:3-4 also, what confidence does Paul put in the outward physical deeds that can be done in the body, and what is his expectation for our physical human bodies?

Prayer: Our minds are either set on earthly things, or on heavenly things – the eager expectation of the return of our Saviour to make all things new and perfect. How can you fix your eyes on Heaven today? Ask God for help, and praise Him for the hope we have in the return of Christ.

Pressing on Towards the Goal

DAY 4

- 1. Today we will consider what Philippians teaches us about the end of history. What do you learn from the following verses:
 - a. 1:6 and 1:9-11
 - b. 1:21-23
 - c. 1:28
 - d. 3:10-14
 - e. 3:20-21
 - f. 4:5
- 2. How should this knowledge shape you? How does it challenge you?

Prayer: Pray in response to your answer to Question 2. Also pray that God might save many more people before the final Day of Christ.

WEEK 9 PHILIPPIANS 3:12-4:3

DAY 5

Read Philippians 4:1

1.	In 4:1 Paul begins to conclude his long exhortation to the Philippians,
	urging them to stand firm in the Lord. But notice the words "in this way".
	Considering all that precedes this verse (particularly from 1:27 onwards),
	how would you describe the way in which they are to be standing firm?

2. Consider the following verses: 1:9-10, 1:27-28, 2:14-16 and 3:12-14. What does a healthy Christian life look like?

3. Are you standing firm in the Lord?

Prayer: Ask God to help you stand firm, setting your mind on things above, and treasuring Jesus above all else. Pray this also for your Growth Group, our church and other people in your life.

Pressing on Towards the Goal

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 10 PHILIPPIANS 4:2-23

DAY 1

Read Philippians 4:1-3

- 1. Thinking of Euodia and Syntyche, re-read 1:27-30. Why is it so important that these women are of the same mind?
- 2. What do we learn of Euodia's and Syntyche's past from verse 3?
- 3. These women have been highly active partners with Paul in ministry he clearly considers them sisters in Christ! And yet there is obviously some serious disagreement between them; serious enough to have their names read out publicly in the Philippian church. From these verses, and from the whole letter of Philippians, what do we learn about what to do when we have conflict with someone in church?
- 4. Consider the terms Paul uses when addressing the Philippians in verse 1. How would thinking of each other in the same way as Paul help Euodia and Syntyche be unified in the Lord?

Prayer: If you have any conflict or disagreement with anyone in church, ask God to help you consider them as brothers and sisters in Jesus – ask for unity in the gospel. Pray this generally for our church as a whole.

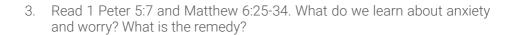
Rejoice in the Lord Always

DAY 2

Read Philippians 4:4-7

1. Li	ist three	situations	that us	ually m	ake you	more	anxious	than	usual.
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2.	What	from	verse 6	is is	the	answer	tο	anxiety	17
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4. Consider the opposition and struggle the Philippians faced (1:29). What is significant about God's answer to our prayers about our anxiety in 4:7?

Prayer: Put 4:6 into practice! With thanksgiving, present your requests to God, knowing that He hears you and cares for you as His child. He is good, and He is powerful! Put all your trust in Him.

WEEK 10 PHILIPPIANS 4:2-23

DAY 3

Read Philippians 4:8-9

1. Consider verse 8. Are there things in your life that keep you from thinking about things that are true, noble, right, pure...? Are there things in your life that are encouraging you to think about things that are displeasing to God?

2. How might you change so that you think more about things that are excellent and praiseworthy?

3. In verse 9, Paul is very bold! How does Paul's relationship to Jesus, as well as the pattern of his life, help us understand this appeal? (See 1:1 and 3:10-11)

Prayer: Praise God that as we follow Him – even through our struggles – He, the God of Peace, is with us. Ask God to help you and all His people live lives that could be described as pure, noble, right, lovely and admirable.

Rejoice in the Lord Always

DAY 4

Read Philippians 4:10-13

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2.	What is Paul's secret to contentment, even when he's hungry and in need?
	(Consider 1:21 and 4:13)

3. How should verse 13 be understood, and how could it be abused?

4. In a materialistic society like ours, this sort of contentment is absolutely remarkable! What do you find encouraging and challenging about Paul's attitude? How might you seek to imitate Paul's attitude?

Prayer: Ask that God would help you treasure knowing Christ Jesus above all else in life – that in any and every circumstance, even when in physical need, you might be content.

WEEK 10 PHILIPPIANS 4:2-23

DAY 5

Read Philippians 4:14-23

- 1. As the Philippians gave away their money to help the gospel spread through Paul, "more is credited to their account" (verse 17). What does Paul mean by this?
- 2. Paul describes their giving to gospel endeavours as worship (verse 18). How does this help shape our understanding of worship?
- 3. As they give away their money, Paul is confident that God would meet their needs (verse 19). Read Luke 12:27-31, Ephesians 1:3-4, and Philippians 4:12-13. What sort of attitude should these scriptures foster in us?
- 4. Are there ways in which you can become more generous, seeking first the Kingdom and trusting God to meet your needs?

If you wish to reflect more on the Philippians' generosity, read 2 Corinthians 8-9, where Paul uses the Philippians (a Macedonian church) as an example of generosity for the Corinthian church to follow.

Prayer: Praise God for generous believers who have helped the gospel go out. Ask Him to make you generous, Kingdom-minded, and an active partner in the work of the gospel – however you are able!

Rejoice in the Lord Always

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS





Seth, Kate, and Josie Buddhist Asia

As the fourth largest religion in the world, Buddhism comprises 10% of the world's population. The Buddhistic 'Bonba' people are gospelzero. No gospel. No Bible. No church. No chance to hear about Jesus. Humanly speaking, not a hope in hell. So pray for Seth and Kate as they seek to plant churches in gospel zero Buddhist Asia.

Derek and Anna

(OMF) Southeast Asia

Derek and Anna (Liam, Jasmine and Juliet) are working in theological education and cross-cultural worker mobilisation in Southeast Asia. Pray for Derek as he continues with his classes in a local Bible college and is starting to train people to reach out to minority ethnic groups where there is no church. They are also trying to reach out to their local community, developing friendships and read the Bible with those interested.



Craig and Samantha McCorkindale

(CMS) Cambodia

Craig and Samantha have settled into life in Cambodia. In this first year they are beginning formal language learning and connecting in with the community. Craig will be forming relationships at Phnom Penh Bible School, where he plans to teach.



The Geneva Push

Australia

Geneva Push is an Australian Church Planting Network aiming to inspire, equip and unleash a new generation of church planters dedicated to evangelising churches into existence. Pray for the assessment process, provision of ongoing support and training through coaching, mentoring, and conferences to ensure the biggest impact as church planters.



Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

Australia

These churches are committed to praying for one another and continuing to promote planting of evangelical churches throughout Australia. Their pastors seek to provide support and encouragement to one another. FIEC is aiming, with God's help, to plant 100 churches across Australia during the next 15 years.



Find out more: www.evchurch.info/missionpartners



Jono and Grace Wright

(AIM) Cross cultural ministry in Australia

Jono and Grace Wright, with their kids, are working amongst Aboriginals in Camooweal and the surrounding communities along the Sandover Highway. Pray for their ongoing ministries including; preaching at Sunday meetings, weekly Bible study groups and prayer meetings, Sunday School, Scripture in the local primary school, weekend Bible schools and also an itinerant ministry.



Liam and Lucy Doyle

Lake Mac Church (NSW Australia)

Liam and Lucy Doyle head up the church plant in Lake Macquarie and are now mentored through the Geneva program. The church has a great range of ages, and despite differences - like age, education and nationality - they enjoy a real sense of warmth, friendship and love as they hear God's word together and help each other follow Jesus. Pray for a good mentor relationship with Dave Sheath from Lakes Evangelical Church.



Martin and Jen Shadwick

(AFES) Newcastle University
Martin and Jen (Hannah and Evie)
work with AFES discipling and
training Christian students. Martin
continues to work with both local and
overseas students. Pray for wisdom
in balancing ministry and family life,
and for new partners to help them
continue in this important ministry.



Colin and Jill Bakon

(SIM) Church and Missionary Mobilisation

Colin's two roles are in church mobilisation in Latin America where he is raising up national teams to run Kairos, with special focus this year on Ecuador and Peru. And he is working with a task force to mobilise for new initiatives within SIM to see work happening in areas where there is no church.

EV KIDS RESOURCES

For Preschoolers







Books for Little Ones - Series 1 and 2 Stephanie Carmichael (12 months – 4 years)

Beautiful clear, photographic illustrations and simple text. Helps children understand foundational truths about God and matches perfectly with our Jellyfish and Starfish syllabus.



Play through the Bible and Bake through the Bible (2-5 years)

Great ideas in these books to incorporate activities into your Bible time with your kids to reinforce and enhance their understanding.



The Beginners Bible -Candle books (3-5 years)

This Bible recounts some of the key events in the Bible. It doesn't

make many theological conclusions but introduces children to the pictures are colourful and well drawn for pre-schoolers.

Music for little ones....



'A very, very, ver<mark>y Big Go</mark>d' (Emu Music)



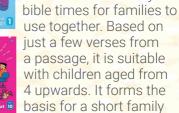
Beginning with God – J Boddham Whetham and A Mitchell (3-5 years)



A great creative resource to help pre-school children understand what God teaches us about himself and Jesus in the Bible.
The Beginning with God resource is intended to be used with the Beginners Bible.



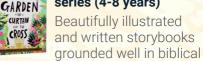
Table Talk - Alison Mitchell (4+ years)



This is a book of daily



'Tales that tell the truth' series (4-8 years)



hible time

truth. The Garden, the temple and the cross is a particular favourite for it's gospel centred overview of salvation history.



'J is for Jesus' (Emu Music)
And many other early Colin
Buchanan titles



For School Age



The Biggest Story (6-12 years) by Kevin De Young

Another beautifully illustrated book that gives a great overview of

salvation history in story book style for school aged kids.



The Big Picture Story Book – David Helm (5-7 years)

This story book covers the Big Story of the Bible.

It helps children understand how the whole Bible teaches and points us to the great salvation found in Jesus. The pictures are terrific.



Short Steps for Long Gain (Family Edition) – Kathy and Simon Manchester (5-12 years)

26 short Bible studies for the family.



Big Truths for Little Kids - Susan and Richie Hunt (6-8 years)

This book can help you teach the basic truths of

the Christian faith to your children. It involved questions and answers and a story for children to learn from.



Gumtree Gully - Kel Richards (6-8 years)

This is the Gospel in a bush story. There are

Bible verses and questions to help ensure your child's understanding of the good news of Jesus.



The Gospel Story Bible – Marty Machowski (7-10 years)

This Story Bible takes passages of the Bible

and condenses them into a single page story which is well written for children. It incorporates the theology of the whole Bible into that story so that children are learning to always read a passage in context. The authors encourage children to read the story and then spend the next couple of days actually reading the passages from a Bible.



XTB - Alison Mitchell (7-11 years)

Designed to help

the reader get into the Bible daily for themselves –XTB is packed with puzzles, pictures, prayers and solid teaching points. Children are encouraged to understand, apply and pray through the Bible in an accessible and thought provoking way.

EV Kids Music



Singin Jesus is the Word

A CD designed for school age children which helps them rejoice and

remember great truths about Jesus.



Singin Jesus is Uber Bamboo

Gospel centred, Bible based, homegrown songs

for the whole family to enjoy!