



*A Twelve Week Study
in Paul's Letter
to the Philippian Church*

C I T I Z E N S

Week One: A Citizen's Identity / Philippians 1:1-11

Day One | Philippians 1:1-2

What does it mean to be a “servant” of Christ? In what ways are you happy to be a servant of Christ? Why does Paul greet fellow Christians with “grace and peace”? How do we experience grace + peace from God, our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ? What does it mean to be a “saint”? How do you distinguish between “saint” and “servant”?

Day Two | Philippians 1:3-5

Who do you look at as a steadfast example of a Christian? How often do you pray to the Lord with thankfulness for this person's example as a Christian? What reasons do you have to pray with joy? Why is it important to care about other churches/ministries outside of our day-to-day lives? How can you “partner” with others in the gospel?

Day Three | Philippians 1:6

What does it mean that He has begun a “good work”? Does Paul have doubts about God's “good work” in the Phillipian church? Do you have doubts about God's “good work” in your life? If so, what doubts do you have? Why is Paul confident that God will complete His work? Read Phil. 2:12-13. What is the foundation for Paul's confidence?

Day Four | Philippians 1:7-8

Do you ever feel “rivalry” with other Christians? What causes feelings of rivalry or resentment towards others? Paul’s confidence that God will complete the good work (v.6) in the Phillipian church, is due to them all being “partakers of grace”. How does sharing in the same grace, lead us to rejoice with one another and set aside rivalry?

Day Five | Philippians 1:9-11

Why does Paul pray for love to abound? How have you seen yourself grow in love since becoming a Christian? Why is it important to grow in knowledge + discernment while growing in love? What does it mean to be “pure and blameless”? Are you pure and blameless? If not, how can you be? What impact would that have on your life?

Group Question:

What identity most defines you? Which of the identity statements in this passage resonate the most with you?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week’s passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God’s help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Two: A Citizen's Perspective / Philippians 1:12-26

Day One | Philippians 1:12-14

Paul was in prison and God still used him to advance the gospel. Are there areas of your life (family, friendships, work) where you are not willing to let the gospel shine forth? What reasons do we hold back? What “prisons” are you in where you could speak gospel truth? Do you pray for confidence to “speak the word” without fear?

Day Two | Philippians 1:15-18

Why do some people preach Christ from envy or rivalry? Is your Christian-life rooted in envy or rivalry? Do you ever feel jealous of other Christians in the church? Even though the heart-posture is incorrect, why does Paul say he rejoices? Read Galatians 1:6-9. Why is Paul's response different in both passages?

Day Three | Philippians 1:19-20

Do you feel hopeful when others pray for you? Does it lead you to rejoice when others pray for you? What does it mean to expect and hope for Christ to be honored in your body, whether by life or by death? How can you honor Christ in your life? Is it okay to reject or dishonor Christ to avoid ridicule, pain, or even death?

Day Four | Philippians 1:21

On your own words, what does this verse mean? What causes you to fear death? What makes it most difficult to fully live for Christ? Describe an area of your life where you have seen victory or been able to walk in greater obedience to Jesus. If you are a follower of Jesus, what do you gain when you die?

Day Five | Philippians 1:22-26

What did fruitful labor look like in Paul's life? What does it look like in your life? What makes it "far better" to depart and to be with Christ? Ultimately, why did Paul feel like it was better to remain, despite his desire to depart? How does that speak to you in your current life situation?

Group Question:

If we cease to live in fear of death, how might that motivate us to live a more fruitful and vibrant life?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Three: A Citizen's Responsibility / Philippians 1:27-30

Day One | Philippians 1:27

What are you basing your goodness and worthiness on? Paul reminds the Philippians that he will check in with them and keep them accountable. Who do you have in your life to hold you accountable in your Christian walk? Why is it important as believers to “stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving for the faith of the gospel”?

Day Two | Philippians 1:28

When you face opposition for your faith in Jesus, how do you handle that? Do you find yourself frightened by your opponents? How is standing boldly against your opponents a clear sign to them of their destruction but evidence of your salvation? Being bold in your faith can look like a lot of things. What does it look like for you?

Day Three | Philippians 1:29

How does knowing that you are in Christ shape your view on suffering? Can you share a time in your life when you were able to see your suffering as a privilege and an opportunity to glorify God? Is there a time that you had to suffer for the sake of the Gospel? If yes, share more about your experience.

Day Four | Philippians 1:30

The conflict that Paul is experiencing is to remain faithful to the Gospel in the midst of persecution. How does it make you feel knowing that others suffer for the sake of the Gospel? What's an example of someone suffering for the Gospel that encourages you? How does that suffering help you grow closer to Christ and to know Him better?

Day Five | Philippians 1:27-30

In this section, what is most challenging to you and why? Has this passage impacted your faith in Jesus? If so, how?

Group Question:

Does the fear of suffering cause you to avoid or delay obedience to God? What are some of the potential consequences of disobedience? Could they ultimately be more significant than the suffering that comes with obeying the Lord?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Four: A Citizen's Exemplar/ Philippians 2:1-11

Day One | Philippians 2:1-2

What is the connection between love, unity & joy? How have you seen this play out in Christian relationships in your life? Does “being in full accord and of one mind” mean that we can never disagree or have different opinions? How important is unity to you? What do you intentionally do to pursue and promote unity, especially in the church?

Day Two | Philippians 2:3-4

What would be the result if the church chose to live without selfish ambition or conceit? Why is this so difficult to do? Do you find it difficult to consider others more significant than yourself? Can you think of a situation in your life right now where there is an opportunity to look out for the interests of others, as well as yourself?

Day Three | Philippians 2:5-7

How does the example of Jesus and His humility empower us to live in this same way? What does this passage say about the divinity of Jesus? What does it mean that Jesus emptied Himself? In what ways did Jesus act as a servant during His time on earth? What obstacles make it difficult for us to live with this same humility?

Day Four | Philippians 2:8

How did the death of Jesus on the cross demonstrate His willing obedience? Why would death on a cross have been an especially humiliating way to die? Who was responsible for the death of Jesus? If this was a part of God's plan for salvation, were those who put Him to death still guilty of sin? What role did your own personal sin play in the crucifixion of Jesus? How does that make you feel towards Him?

Day Five | Philippians 2:9-11

Where does Jesus have authority? Why must everyone bow at the name of Jesus? What prevents people from seeing and acknowledging His lordship over their lives today? How does reading this passage make you feel?

Group Question:

Why isn't it enough to simply look to Jesus as a good example to follow or as a teacher who spoke words of wisdom and truth?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Five: A Citizen's Joy / Philippians 2:12-18

Day One | Philippians 2:12

In your own words, what does it mean to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling? What do we contribute to our salvation? What role does Jesus play in our salvation? What causes you to fear and tremble when you think about your own salvation? In this season of life, how does your obedience relate to your faith?

Day Two | Philippians 2:13

What does it look like for God to work on your "will"? How has following Jesus changed your desires and motivations? What does it look like for God to work in and through you for His good pleasure? Do you find it difficult to release your own desires and allow God to accomplish His will through you? How have you grown in that area?

Day Three | Philippians 2:14-15

Why are grumbling and disputing damaging behaviors for us and our witness? How does our culture and society feel about grumbling & disputing? In what ways are you shining as a light in a crooked world? In what areas are you most tempted to go along with the ways of the world rather than standing out as an example?

Day Four | Philippians 2:16

What are some practices or behaviors that help us to hold fast to the word of life? What would cause Paul to feel that he had run and labored in vain? What do you look to in order to measure whether you are living a life of meaning and purpose? Based on that measure, how do you feel you are doing? What do you need to change?

Day Five | Philippians 2:17-18

Paul knows that he may die for spreading the Gospel. How does he feel about that possibility? Have you ever had to suffer in a way that ultimately led you to rejoice? What is the key to looking at life in that way? Why does God allow some people to suffer for the sake of the Gospel? What does the example of Jesus teach us about this?

Group Question:

What connection have you seen between your relationship with God and the experience of joy in your life?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Six: A Citizen's Compatriots / Philippians 2:19-30

Day One | Philippians 2:19-20

Where does the genuine love of Paul & Timothy for the church come from? How would you describe the way that you feel about your brothers & sisters in Christ? Can you describe a time that someone showed genuine concern for you? How did it make you feel about that person & your situation?

Day Two | Philippians 2:21-24

How much are you motivated by self interest in your daily life? What does it look like to live seeking the interests of Christ? What makes this difficult to do? How did Paul & Timothy form such a close relationship? What are the key ingredients for a truly meaningful Christian friendship & discipling relationship?

Day Three | Philippians 2:25-26

Paul uses 5 terms to describe Epaphroditus (Brother, Fellow Worker, Fellow Soldier, Messenger & Minister). What do you think each of those terms means in this context? Who are some people in your life that you see fulfilling those roles? What unique communication challenges would they have dealt with in this time period?

Day Four | Philippians 2:27-28

How was God merciful to both Epaphroditus and Paul? Have you ever been very ill or near to death? What was that experience like? What did you learn about yourself and learn about God in that season? What is causing you to worry or be anxious in this season of your life? What would it look like to turn that over to God?

Day Five | Philippians 2:29-30

What risks might Epaphroditus have undertaken in his service to Paul and the church? Why was he worthy of being honored by the church? What has it cost you to follow Jesus? What was “lacking in their service” to Paul? How did Epaphroditus complete it?

Group Question:

Describe a few of the most significant Christian relationships that you have had. Why are those people so important to you?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week’s passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God’s help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Seven: A Citizen's Confidence / Philippians 3:1-11

Day One | Philippians 3:1-3

What causes you to rejoice? What habits or practices help you to find joy in a difficult world? Who are the dogs, evildoers & flesh mutilators that we need to look out for today? What does it mean to “put no confidence in the flesh”? What gives you confidence in your relationship with God?

Day Two | Philippians 3:4-6

What do you find most significant or noteworthy about Paul's list of qualities & accomplishments? How did his persecution of the church show a zeal for the Lord? What are some of the things in your life that you could place confidence in? How do you balance or manage your personal pride?

Day Three | Philippians 3:7

Why does Paul count all that he gained as loss for the sake of Christ? What is the danger with putting our hope in our heritage or accomplishments? What elements of your life are you most tempted to take pride in and to over value? What led you to a position of greater humility regarding those things?

Day Four | Philippians 3:8-9

Why is knowing Jesus Christ worth more than any other thing? Is it necessary to lose all things in order to gain Jesus? Why or why not? In your own words, what is the righteousness that depends on faith in Jesus? Is it possible to gain righteousness from the law? What are some other ways that people try to be made righteous?

Day Five | Philippians 3:10-11

What are some of the ways in which you have shared in the sufferings of Christ? What did you learn in those seasons? What is the connection between suffering and following Jesus? How does someone experience the power of His resurrection? What things in your life would you be unwilling to give up in exchange for knowing Jesus?

Group Question:

Paul Miller teaches on the concept of J Curves in our life - a process of experiencing suffering, death, and resurrection in the same pattern of Jesus. Where do you see that happening in your life today? To what do you look for your ultimate confidence?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Eight: A Citizen's Focus / Philippians 3:12-16

Day One | Philippians 3:12

If Christ Jesus has made you His own, how does that serve as a motivation to press on towards greater obedience to Him? Does it make sense to pursue perfection if we can't obtain it in this life? Do you tend to rely too much on the grace of God or too little on it? What is one thing you could do this week to embrace God's grace more faithfully?

Day Two | Philippians 3:13

What is the value in forgetting what lies behind? What is the benefit of forgetting the past? Are there things from your past that prevent you from fully striving for a closer relationship with Jesus? What would it look like to move beyond them? Can you describe some of the things in Paul's past that could've hindered him?

Day Three | Philippians 3:14

What is the goal and the prize that Paul is seeking to obtain? What are some of the goals or prizes that you are pursuing which could impede or hinder your ability to reach the true prize? What are some ways in which you are currently "pressing on" towards the goal in your relationship with Jesus? Why is it described as an "upward call"?

Day Four | Philippians 3:15

What does it take to become a mature follower of Jesus? What are the measures of maturity? Would you describe yourself as mature in your faith? Why or why not? What is something that you feel God has revealed to you about Himself? How do you listen, learn, and hear from God?

Day Five | Philippians 3:16

What have we obtained in this passage? How would you describe the relationship between our effort and our salvation? What is the relationship between faith, truth & love? In this season of your life, what makes it most difficult to hold fast and remain true in your faith?

Group Question:

What are you focused on in this season? What are you striving for most passionately in this time in your life? If you lack passion, where could you go to reignite it?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Nine: A Citizen's Motivation / Philippians 3:17-21

Day One | Philippians 3:17

Does Paul lack humility in asking others to imitate his example? Can you name someone whose example you have sought to follow in your relationship with God? What specifically was it that you were seeking to imitate? How would you feel about someone following the example of faith that they see in you?

Day Two | Philippians 3:18

What does it look like to walk as an enemy of the cross of Christ? Why is Paul moved to tears when he speaks of these people? How do you feel about people who are walking in opposition to Christ? What gives you hope that people can change & repent?

Day Three | Philippians 3:19

What does "their god is their belly" mean? Can you describe an example of someone taking "glory in their shame"? Why is it wrong to have your mind set on earthly things? Which of these things is the greatest temptation to you at this point in your life? How has that changed in the different seasons of your life? Why do these things ultimately lead to destruction?

Day Four | Philippians 3:20

What ideas does the term “citizenship” bring to mind? What does it mean to have our citizenship in heaven? How does this impact the way that you think about your relationship to this nation / world? What practical things can you do to keep your heavenly citizenship at the forefront of your mind each day?

Day Five | Philippians 3:21

What do you expect your transformed body to be like? What does it mean that all things are subject to Jesus? Why does Jesus allow people to rebel and act in disobedience towards Him? What is preventing you from being fully subject to Jesus in every area of your life?

Group Question:

What would need to change in order for you to serve as a more helpful example to others of following Jesus? Where can the power and motivation to do that come from?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week’s passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God’s help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Ten: A Citizen's Peace / Philippians 4:1-9

Day One | Philippians 4:1

What was the source & motivation for Paul's genuine love for the Church? What makes it difficult for you to love others in this same way? What does it look like to stand firm in the Lord? In what area is God convicting you to take a stand in this season of your life? What will standing firm look like in that situation?

Day Two | Philippians 4:2-3

What do you think could've caused division between Euodia & Syntyche? What does it mean to "agree in the Lord"? What ultimate motivation does he point them towards? How have you resolved arguments with other believers in the past? Can you describe a time when you had to act as a mediator in a dispute? What was the result?

Day Three | Philippians 4:4-5

What was the last thing that you rejoiced over? How do you respond to this call to rejoice always? Does that seem possible to you? Why or why not? What does it mean to "let your reasonableness be known to everyone"? Do you have a reputation for being reasonable & joyous? Do you think this is how the world sees Christians?

Day Four | Philippians 4:6-7

What makes you feel anxious? Why is it important to pray with thanksgiving when we feel anxious? Do you think this passage means that it is a sin to feel anxious? How does God's peace guard our hearts & minds? What does it look like for you to apply this truth to your life today? What makes it difficult to do this when we feel anxious?

Day Five | Philippians 4:8-9

Why is it important to put our attention & focus on these things? How does this relate to the anxiety that we feel? Who has been a good example for you to follow in their walk with Christ? What things are you currently watching or thinking about that are not good or fruitful for you? How does that relate to your experience of God's peace?

Group Question:

What habit or practice could you adopt that would help you to focus more on the blessings of Jesus and less on the anxiety that this world produces?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Eleven: A Citizen's Strength / Philippians 4:10-13

Day One | Philippians 4:10

What do you think caused their concern for Paul to be revived? How good are you at receiving help and care from others? Can you think of someone who needs some encouragement from you this week? What is our primary motivation to love and care for our brothers & sisters in Christ?

Day Two | Philippians 4:11

What is your level of contentment in this season of your life? How would you describe the situation of your life in this present moment? What do you think Paul's situation was like at this time? What is the relationship between being in need and being content? Do you find it possible to be content even when you have needs? How?

Day Three | Philippians 4:12

Could you make this same declaration that Paul is making? As you think back on your life, what are some of the times of plenty & hunger that you have faced? How did your level of contentment relate to what you were going through? How do you think that Paul learned this secret? What was the process for him? Was it similar for you?

Day Four | Philippians 4:13

Who is it that strengthens Paul (and us)? What does he mean when he says “I can do all things”? In a practical sense, what does it look like for Jesus to strengthen us? Can you describe a time when you felt God strengthen you? Why is this a secret? Why do people typically struggle in difficult times or seasons of hunger & lack?

Day Five | Philippians 4:10-13

The Philippian church helped Paul, which gave him joy & encouragement - but he ultimately gives God the credit and the glory. Do you currently have an opportunity to be a blessing to someone in a way that encourages them & brings glory to God? What would that look like? What next step must you take? What brings you joy?

Group Question:

Can you describe a time when you were used by God to encourage someone else? How did it make you feel? How did it make them feel? What is your source of strength?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week’s passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God’s help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.

C I T I Z E N S

Week Twelve: A Citizen's Supply / Philippians 4:14-23

Day One | Philippians 4:14-16

What types of needs would Paul have had as he traveled throughout the region to fulfill his ministry calling? Can you describe a time when someone helped you in a significant way? How did it make you feel towards them? Why is consistent and faithful support more challenging & meaningful than a one time gift?

Day Two | Philippians 4:17-18

What is the fruit that increases to their credit? In your own words, what is Paul saying in verse 17? What fruit is being produced because of your faithful generosity? How would their gifts to Paul be similar to the sacrifices offered at the temple? If you give financially to support the church or missionaries, what is your motivation? Do you think that is something that all Christians should do? Why or why not?

Day Three | Philippians 4:19-20

What are some of the biggest needs that you have right now? What makes it difficult to believe that God will supply all of those needs? What does it mean for Him to do it "according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus"? How do you give God glory when He provides for you? Can you describe a way that He has provided for you in the past?

Day Four | Philippians 4:21-22

What kind of relationships do you have with other followers of Jesus? How could you be an intentional encouragement to another believer this week? How has this study impacted the way that you think about being called a saint? Why was it significant that there were believers in Caesar's household?

Day Five | Philippians 4:23

Why is the grace of Jesus such a significant blessing and encouragement? What are some specific areas of your life where you need to receive and apply the grace of Jesus this week? How could you demonstrate the grace of Jesus to someone that God has placed in your life? How can you seek to walk more closely with Jesus this week?

Group Question:

What is the most significant idea or application that you will take away from this study of Philippians?

Prayer: Reflection and Response

Did this week's passage lead you to a sense of Praise? Worship? Gratitude? Did it lead to conviction? A need to confess & ask for forgiveness? A request for God's help? Write down a prayer, speaking to God simply & honestly in light of those reflections.