

Small Group Daily Bible Readings and Reflections

- Philippians -

Format Overview

This format is designed for Life Groups who want to spend time in the word each day not only reading the word but reflecting on the word. The use of the Journal Page makes that even more effective.

In this format, each Life Group member is to read the week's chapter each day and then reflect on the verses from that chapter that are assigned to that particular day. They are to use the Reflections questions from their Reading Guide and also respond to the journal each day for further insight into the text and their own lives. The reading is set up on a five day schedule so that anyone who misses a day can easily catch up. By the end of the week, the chapter should have been read 5 times and processed through the reflection questions and journal. This will work best for groups that meet weekly but will also work for other meeting schedules. Simply assign the readings and reflections to be completed by the next time you meet.

When the Life Group meets, they are to bring their journals and the discussion will be based on questions on which the Life Group leader has determined to focus (those asked from the Reflections questions for each day or those generated by the group leader), what the Lord has revealed to each member during the week of their study, and any other questions generated by the study that a group member wants to discuss..

This format allows the group to be in the word together, meditate upon the word together, and processing what the Spirit has shown them from their study. You may want to try this to see how effective it is with you group and then continue with this format or choose another from our WEB site.

Journal for Daily Bible Readings & Reflection

Read the text designated for today at least twice.

1. Reflect on the questions that have been provided. Jot down your responses to those questions?
2. What other significant thoughts came to your mind as you read the text?
3. What questions does this text raise for you?
4. Does this text convict you of any sin in your life or areas of weakness that you need to give special attention to?
5. Do you see any promises of God for your life in this text?
6. Does this text speak to anything going on in your life right now? What is it saying to you?

Spend some time in prayer now as you are directed by the Holy Spirit. Jot down a few things that you feel led to pray for this morning that are not on your regular prayer list. Note any ways in which you see God answering prayers that you have already been offering up to Him.

Life Group Daily Bible Reading and Reflections

(Based on five days a week)

Philippians - Weeks 1 & 2

Week One

Day One 1:1-6

- What gave Paul's life meaning?
- How are you in partnership in the gospel?
- Who has God placed in your life for whom you give thanks? What work has God begun in you? What is he doing right now to perfect that work?

Day Two 1:7-11

- What is Paul's prayer for the Philippians?
- How does the content of your prayers for yourself compare to his?
- How is the love quotient in your life toward God, family, friends, the poor, or the lost?

Day Three 1:12-18

- What was the source of joy for Paul in his captivity?
- What makes it plain to others in your life that you follow Christ?
- How have you experienced joy by sharing the good news of Jesus with others?
- How are you doing in being a witness for Jesus Christ?

Day Four 1:19-20

- What were the two sources of help for Paul in his trials?
- How have those been sources of help for you in your trials?
- What was Paul's goal for his life whether he lived or died?
- What spiritual goals have you established for this season of your life?

Day Five 1:21-26

- Paul said that for him, "To live is Christ." What does he mean by that?
- Paul said that for him, "to die was gain." For you, how would dying be gain?
- For Paul, life was an opportunity to bear fruit for God. What fruit are you clearly bearing for God at this time in your life? What do you gain from bearing spiritual fruit?

Week Two

Day One 1:27-28

- What would a life worthy of the gospel look like? What would not be part of that life?
- Do you feel as if you are living worthy of the gospel now?
- What would you ask God to change in you now so that you might live worthy of Christ?

Day Two 1.-29

- According to this text, has God promised believers that life will always be smooth sailing?
- What does Paul mean when he says that suffering is sometimes "granted" to us on "behalf of Christ?"
- What struggle are you going through now? How is your struggle on behalf of Christ?

Day Three 2:1-2

- What encouragement do you have from being united with Christ? What comfort have you ever received from Christ's love?
- How do you experience fellowship with the Spirit?
- How has the tenderness & compassion of Christ ever come to you?

Day Four 2:3-4

- What is the core thought of these two verses?
- Are you aware of any selfish ambition driving you in your life? Any desire for power, prestige, superiority right now?
- How does Paul's admonition to consider others better than yourself strike you?
- When was the last time you put another's interest ahead of yours ?
- Do you need to pray about this? Do you resist praying about this and why?

Day Five 2:5

- If you are honest, who do you most often model your life after? How often do you consider how much like Jesus you have become?
- What part of being like Jesus is most attractive to you?
- Which part do you resist the most? Why do you resist being like Jesus in that way?
- How can you become more like Jesus?

Life Group Daily Bible Readings and Reflections

(Based on 5 Days a Week)

Philippians – Weeks 3 & 4

Week Three

Day One 2:6-8

- What attitudes do you see reflected in Christ in this text?
- What role do these attitudes play in our ability to surrender to God in obedience?
- What areas do you struggle with your obedience to God?
- Why is it sometimes hard to be obedient?

Day Two 2:9-11

- What prompted God to exalt Jesus?
- Can we expect God to exalt us when we are humble /obedient? See James 4:10.
- Can you remember a time when this has been true for you?

Day Three 2:12-13

- Who is it that works in us when we have the Spirit of Christ?
- What is he trying to accomplish within us?
- What areas does his Spirit want to effect within us?
- If we are saved by grace and not works and have confidence in our salvation, what does Paul mean when he says that we are to *continue to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling*?

Day Four 2:14-18

- Why are we to do everything without arguing or complaining?
- What do our complaints reveal about our view of God and his control over our circumstances?
- How does a life without argument and complaint contribute to being blameless and pure....stars shining in a dark universe?
- In what ways do argument and complaint appear in your life?

Day Five 2: 19-24

- How does Paul express his love for this church in this text?
- What set Timothy apart from most men that Paul knew?
- How did Timothy's life reflect the qualities that Paul had already called the church to in his letter to Philippi?
- How well do you take a genuine interest in the welfare of others? What is the evidence of that?

Week Four

Day One 2:25-30

- Paul spoke of Epaphroditus as a brother, worker, and soldier. What do these words indicate about the Christian life?
- Which of those qualities are obvious in your life?
- What does this section reveal about Paul's love and heart for people? How had Christ changed him since his days of persecuting the church?
- What are the things Christ has changed in you over the past 5 years?

Day Two 3:1

- Paul, writing from prison, begins this section of his letter with a call to rejoice! What does that tell you about our ability to find joy in our circumstances?
- Where does Paul find his joy even in difficult circumstances?
- What reasons in Christ do you personally have to be joyful even if you are currently in hard circumstances?

Day Three 3:2-4

There were those who kept calling these new Christians back to the Law of Moses and a system by which men could only hope to save themselves by perfectly keeping all the rules. Paul warns the church not to hear these men and draws a contrast between those who live by Law and those who live by grace.

- In these verses, what are the marks of those who live by grace?
- Do you ever catch yourself doubting your salvation because you "have not done enough" or because you are not "good enough"?
- What truths can you remind yourself of to combat that thinking?

Day Four 3:5-7

- What pedigree could Paul claim for himself if salvation could be attained through works and social standing?
- What prompted Paul to count all those things as being of no value? Are there any areas of life that you trust in for standing with God? Where does your standing with God truly come from?
- Why is that "good news?"

Day Five 3:8-9

- What did Paul consider the highest priority in life?
- Where is that priority on your list?
- What is the difference between knowing Christ and knowing about Christ? How can you come to know him better?

Life Group Daily Bible Readings and Reflections
(Based on 5 Days a Week)
Philippians – Weeks 5 & 6

Week Five

Day One 3:10-11

- What does it mean “to know Christ?”
- What does it mean to “know the power of his resurrection?”
- How have you already experienced that in your life?
- What does Paul mean by “sharing in the fellowship of Christ’s sufferings and becoming like him in his death?”?
- Have you ever had fellowship with Christ by sharing in his sufferings or being like him in his death?

Day Two 3:12

- What is it that Paul presses on to possess?
- Is Paul talking about salvation in this context or something else?
- What does this text suggest about Paul’s approach to serving Christ?
- Are you pressing on in your quest to know Christ or are you coasting right now? Which is a greater blessing for you – coasting or questing?

Day Three 3:13-14

- What things in Paul’s past life might he have become mired in if he did not forget those and move forward?
- Are there any things in your past life that still hinder your relationship with God? How do they hinder your relationship?
- What might Paul tell you about dwelling on past failures or successes?
- What are some promises that allow you to lay the past at the foot of the cross and move on?

Day Four 3:15

- What mark of spiritual maturity does Paul point to in this verse?
- Why is “forgetting past failures or successes” a mark of maturity?
- What practical things can you do to help release the past and move on with Christ?

Day Five 3:16

- Someone once said, “Don’t teach me more, I can’t do what I already know to do now.” Can you identify with that? In what ways? What area of spiritual immaturity do you want God to mature you in next?

Week Six

Day One 3:17

- What does this verse suggest about the importance of spiritual role models or mentors in your life?
- Who is someone you look to as an example of how to live for Christ? What example are you giving to those who watch your life?
- Have you ever thought about asking a spiritual role model to spend time with you teaching you what Christ has taught them about living? What keeps you from asking?

Day Two 3:18-19

- Do you think all of the “enemies of the cross” Paul spoke of knew that they were hurting the cause of Christ?
- When have you seen Christians act in ways that hurt the cause and the message of Jesus? Is there anything in your life that might hinder the cause?
- What can you say is in your life that furthers the cause of Christ?

Day Three 3:20a

- What are some of the implications of the declaration that our citizenship is in heaven? What does that say about our allegiances, decision making, use of time and other resources, our involvement in politics and our voting patterns, etc.?
- If you were to describe the privileges and responsibilities of your citizenship in heaven, what would they be?

Day Four 3:20b-21

- What do you imagine that the day of the Lord’s return will look like? What emotions do you experience when you think about it?
- What do you think life with Jesus will be like?
- What will our transformed bodies be like? What questions do you have about heaven and the resurrection that you would like your group to discuss?

Day Five 4:1

- What things has Paul already discussed in his letter to the Philippians that will help them stand firm in the face of persecution, temptation, or false teaching?
- Which of those things is most helpful to you in standing firm for Jesus?

Life Group Daily Bible Readings and Reflections
(Based on 5 Days a Week)
Philippians - Weeks 7 & 8

Week Seven

Day One 4:2-3

- Have you ever had a serious falling out with a fellow Christian? How did that effect your walk with Jesus? Was the problem resolved? What did you do to help resolve it?
- Have you ever seen division in the body of Christ? What damage did you see as a result of that division?
- How important is unity in the body of Christ?
- Are you at odds with anyone now? What would Jesus have you do to help bring about reconciliation ?

Day Two 4:4

- What do you think Paul means by “rejoicing in the Lord”.
- Why are we so often called to “rejoice” in scripture?
- What are some things you can do that would help maintain a joyful spirit within you regardless of circumstances?

Day Three 4:5

- How would you define gentleness? Would you say gentleness reveals weakness or strength?
- What does the Lord’s nearness have to do with our gentleness?
- How would you evaluate your gentleness? How might you grow in that if need be?
- Is there someone in your life that needs gentleness from you today?

Day Four 4:6

- How does anxiety affect us and our relationships?
- What does constant anxiety suggest about our view of God and our relationship with him?
- How does the practice of prayer and thanksgiving help us with our anxieties?
- What are you worried about now? Do you think God knows? Do you think God cares? Do you think God can do anything about the things that threaten you? Do you think he will? If not, why not? If so, why worry?

Day Five 4:7

- *What is the peace of God?*
- What does Paul mean when he says that God’s peace will transcend all understanding?
- How does peace guard your heart and mind?
- How do you obtain God’s peace and how much do you have right now?

Week Eight

Day One 4:8

- How careful are you to guard what your mind entertains or focuses on?
- Why is vigilance about your focus important?
- What difference would it make to your Christian walk if you never focused or thought about anything offensive to Jesus?
- Are there any areas of your life you need to rethink in order to be obedient to this passage?

Day Two 4:9

- Rephrase Paul’s statement here in your own words.
- Why are we so prone to talk about things forever without implementing those things in our life?
- Is there anything you have talked about changing in your life but have not yet taken serious action on?
- How does putting God’s word into action contribute to peace in your life?

Day Three 4:10-11

- How would you define contentment?
- Is contentment the same as passive acceptance or resignation?
- How is it different?
- Why is contentment an important aspect of faith?
- Can you learn to be content? How? Do you need to pray about your own contentment?

Day Four 4:12-13

- What is the connection between contentment and vs. 13?
- Do these verses suggest that God does not always want us to be comfortable and have plenty? Why might God put us in a place of stress, need, and discomfort at times?
- Are you in one of those places now? How might you grow spiritually while in that place?

Day Five 4:14-23

- What happens when we share burdens with another or contribute to support the work of another in the kingdom of God?
- Since we are saved by grace and not by works (Eph.2:8), what does Paul mean when he says that what we give to others is credited to our account?
- When we give willingly to meet the needs of others, how does God view those gifts?
- What is the connection between our giving and vs.19?
- When have you experienced that promise in your own life?