

FROM PRISON WITH JOY

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**FAMILY
WORSHIP
GUIDE**

PHILIPPIANS

SUNDAY FROM PRISON WITH JOY

Read Philippians 1:1-11

Discuss

Adult and Student Discussion Questions

- What is the good work Paul refers to in verse 6? What does he mean when he says, "[God] will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ"?
- Paul writes of his imprisonment (v. 7), yet his opening passage is full of joy and thanksgiving on behalf of the church in Philippi. This theme of joy despite suffering is threaded throughout this letter. How do you think Paul is able to see past his chains?
- From verses 9-10, why do you think Paul prays for their love to "abound with knowledge and discernment"?
- How does Paul show his love to this church in the opening passage?

The best remembrance of our friends is to remember them at the throne of grace. - Matthew Henry on verse 4

Kids Discussion Questions

- Paul wrote this letter from prison. But, Paul did not deserve to be in prison. Can you guess why he was there?
- How important do you think this church was to him? What makes you think that?
- Paul prayed that this church would be loving, thoughtful, and righteous and that it would all be for the glory of God. What does glory mean and why do we want God to be glorified?

Sing

My Jesus, I Love Thee
William R. Featherston

Pray

Mirror Paul's prayer from
verses 9-11 for Calvary
Baptist Church

MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE

-WILLIAM R. FEATHERSTON

1. My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

2. I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

3. I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
and say when the deathdew lies cold on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

4. In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

MONDAY

WHETHER I LIVE OR DIE

Read Philippians 1:12-30

Discuss

Adult and Student Discussion Questions

- How might Paul's imprisonment advance the gospel (v. 12)?
- What does Paul mean by "to live is Christ, and to die is gain"?
- Paul describes the persecution befalling the church in Philippi in a peculiar way. Why do you think he uses the phrase "it has been granted to you that... you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake"?

Despite the obvious emphasis of Scripture (in regard to suffering), we are bombarded by suggestions that the "successful" Christian living takes place in the realm of constant victory, health, wholeness, and financial prosperity. In response to this we are not to pretend that suffering doesn't exist or that it might be instantly cured. Such notions are the product of empty heads and closed Bibles. - Alistair Begg

Kids Discussion Questions

- Paul said that his time in prison for serving Jesus could help people to learn about Jesus. How might Paul's time in prison help people to realize how important Jesus is?
- Paul was looking forward to something in verse 21 that happens for those who believe in Christ after this life. What was he looking forward to?
- Paul want this church to live a life "worthy of the gospel" (v. 27). What is the gospel and how can we live lives worthy of it?

Sing

Blessed Assurance
Fanny Crosby

Pray

For the persecuted
Church around the
world.

BLESSED ASSURANCE -FANNY CROSBY

1

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

2

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

TUESDAY

THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

Read Philippians 2

Discuss

Adult and Student Discussion Questions

- What are ways you can obey verses 3-4 this week?
- Looking at verses 5-11, how is Jesus' humble obedience connected to his glorification?
- Timothy is set apart, according to Paul, in that he would be genuinely concerned for the welfare of those he ministered to (v. 20). How can we as a church cultivate a similar genuine care for one another (rather than that which comes from selfish ambition (v.21))?

Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility. - Augustine

Kids Discussion Questions

- Verse 6 shows how remarkably humble Jesus is. What does it mean to be humble?
- Looking at verses 6-8, how did Jesus show humility?
- What happened as a result of Jesus' humble obedience?
- What is one way you can be like our humble savior this week?

Sing

The Solid Rock
Edward Mote

Pray

Pick a family from Calvary to pray for.

THE SOLID ROCK - EDWARD MOTE

1

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

2

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

3

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

4

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
In Him, my righteousness, alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

WEDNESDAY

COUNT IT ALL AS LOSS

Read Philippians 3:1-11

Discuss

Adult and Student Discussion Questions

- From clues in this passage, how has the gospel turned Paul's life upside down?
- What is the "gain" that he counts as "loss" in verse 7?
- To most people, it would have seemed that Paul had everything going for him before he was confronted by Christ on the road to Damascus. Yet, years later and sitting in prison, he writes that he counts "everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus." What are you tempted to believe is of more worth than knowing Christ Jesus?

Gaining Christ- having him as your treasure in the final fullness of perfection- is better than gaining the world and everything in it. This is what we mean by treasuring Christ together. We help each other know Christ like this.

- John Piper

Kids Discussion Questions

- What do you think it means to "rejoice in the Lord" (v.1)?
- Paul is clear that we are only made righteous by faith in Jesus (v. 9). What does it mean to be righteous and what does it mean to have faith in Jesus?

Sing

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
Louisa M.R. Stead

Pray

That each member of your family would see Jesus as surpassing in worth to everything else.

'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS - LOUISA M.R. STEAD

1

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise;
Just to know, Thus saith the Lord.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more.

2

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me,
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood.

3

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life, and rest, and joy, and peace.

4

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.

THURSDAY

STRAINING TOWARD THE GOAL

Read Philippians 3:12-21

Discuss

Adult and Student Discussion Questions

- What stands out to you about this passage?
- What is it that "we have attained" in verse 16 and how can we "hold true" to it?
- What marks the enemies of the cross of Christ?
- How does Paul connect the bodily resurrection of Jesus to our future resurrection?

God is the same God in heaven as on earth, but I shall not be the same man.
- Richard Baxter

Kids Discussion Questions

- Paul said to imitate him in verse 17. What does it mean to imitate someone and how can we imitate Paul?
- Looking at verse 19, what are the "enemies of the cross of Christ" like?
- Paul wrote about our citizenship in heaven. What does it mean to be a citizen?

Sing

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Thomas Chisholm

Pray

For the other gospel-believing churches in our community.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS - THOMAS CHISHOLM

1

“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

2

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

FRIDAY FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

Read Philippians 4:1-9

Discuss

Adult and Student Discussion Questions

- Brotherly love emanates throughout this letter as it does in verse 1. What do you think causes Paul to have such a love for these people?
- How can we obey the command found in verse 5?
- What is a godly response to anxiety?
- Paul's final command in the letter concerns the thoughts of his audience. Why might the subject of our thoughts be so important?

Be anxious about nothing, but prayerful about everything, and be thankful about everything as well. Is not that a beautiful trait in Paul's character? He is a prisoner at Rome, and likely soon to die; yet he mingles thanksgiving with his supplication, and asks others to do the same.

- C.H. Spurgeon on verse 6

Kids Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to be anxious?
- Paul says instead of being anxious, we should pray (v. 6). Why is prayer be better than worrying?
- Even though Paul wrote this from prison, he was not worried. Why do you think that was?

Sing

*What a Friend We Have In
Jesus*
Joseph Scriven

Pray

For anything that has
caused you to be anxious
in recent days.

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS - JOSEPH SCRIVEN

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

SATURDAY

THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT

Read Philippians 4:10-23

Discuss

Adult and Student Discussion Questions

- What has stood out to you the most from the letter of Philippians this week?
- What is Paul's "secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need," in verse 12?
- What is Paul's encouragement concerning the generosity of the church in Philippi in this passage?

Contentment is one of the most distinguishing traits of the godly person, because a godly person has his heart focused on God rather than on possessions or position or power. - Jerry Bridges

Kids Discussion Questions

- What is one thing you've learned this week from the book of Philippians?
- Paul says because of his relationship with Jesus, he knows how to be content. What does it mean to be content?
- How should knowing Jesus help us to be content?

Sing
Doxology
Thomas Ken

Pray
That the Lord would
prepare the hearts of
those who will hear his
Word preached
tomorrow.

DOXOLOGY - THOMAS KEN

1

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

2

Praise God the Father who's the source;
Praise God the Son who is the course;
Praise God the Spirit who's the flow;
Praise God, our portion here below!