

PHILIPPIANS



Name:



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PRESS ON... IN PARTNERSHIP

Study 1

Imagine if you were put in jail for sharing the gospel:

- how would you feel?
- what would you write in a letter to our church?

Read Acts 16:12-40

What kind of characters formed the beginning of this Philippian church?

Google the ancient city of Philippi and see what you can discover. What information about the city might be good to keep in mind while we study Philippians?

Read Philippians 1:1-8

How would you describe Paul's emotions towards the Philippians?

What is it that makes him feel this way?

What does it mean to be a partner in the gospel?

Brainstorm people that you and/or our church are in partnership with. What are benefits to having partners in the gospel?

Reflect on Paul's confidence in verse 6. When is it hard to believe this truth and share this kind of confidence about God's work in your life?

Read Philippians 1:9-11

See if you can put Paul's prayer in your own words.

How does this compare to what you usually pray for our gospel partners?

Why are these things worth praying for each other?

How to press On:

Spend some time praying Paul's words for one another and for our partners in the gospel.

Weekly Challenge: Commit to praying 1:9-11 for a different gospel partner or small group member each day this week.

PRESS ON... IN CHRIST

Study 2

How did you go with last week's challenge?

Share a time when something you thought would be bad actually, in hindsight, turned out to be a good thing.

Read Philippians 1:12-19

How has Paul being in prison actually been a good thing?

What are the motivations behind the two groups preaching Christ?



Paul says "But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached." Do you agree with this? Why/Why not?

Read Philippians 1:20-26

What is Paul torn between? What is good about each?

Why does he end up convinced to keep on living?

How does this view of life help him, while being in prison?

What would it look like for you to share Paul's vision for life?

- in good circumstances?

- in difficult circumstances?

How to press on:

What are the things in your life that threaten to take Christ's place?

For to me, to live is... ?

What is it about these things that make us put them in Christ's place?

Make a plan to notice when these things are creeping in and replace them with Christ.

Weekly Challenge: Memorise Philippians 1:21 so you can draw on it throughout life.

PRESS ON... IN UNITY

Study 3

How did you go with last week's challenge?

Brainstorm the things that "bring people together" in our culture.

Read Philippians 1:27-30

What are the marks of someone living a life worthy of the gospel?

- v27-28:

- v29-30:

How does this act as a "signpost" to others?

Read Philippians 2:1-4

How do we have unity with Christ?

Discuss what it looks like to be united with one another. How do you go with this?

Define

- Selfish ambition:
- Humility:

Read Philippians 2:5-11

Try to grasp the extent of Jesus' humility and exaltation.

How is that the perfect example for us to follow?

What would it look like for our church family to act with this kind of humility?

How to press on:

Paul says "whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." Brainstorm some ways you can do this in your current circumstances, both global and local.

How could you put off pride and put on humility this week?

Weekly Challenge: Each day intentionally do something to foster humility in your life, rather than selfish ambition.

PRESS ON... IN LIVING OUT FAITH

Study 4

How did you go with last week's challenge?

What does it look like to practice a skill? (sport, music, etc.)

Read Philippians 2:12-13

What does it look like to “work out your salvation”?

How does verse 13 help us in doing that?

So which is it: Us working or God working?

Read Philippians 2:14-18

How does Paul suggest they should work out their salvation?

How will Paul know that he did not “run or labour in vain” at the end of his life?

What will it take for you to say that at the end of your life?

Read Philippians 2:19-30

What do these verses teach us about Paul's circumstances?

How is Timothy working out his salvation with fear and trembling?

How is Epaphroditus working out his salvation with fear and trembling?

How to press on:

Which one are you more likely to forget:

Your effort to work out your salvation **or** God working in you to act according to his will?

What can you do to remember that this week?

Plan how you will put your faith into practice like Timothy and Epaphroditus.

Weekly Challenge: In His strength, try to do everything without grumbling or arguing.

