Philippians

STANDING FIRM

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel." Philippians 1:27

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Covid-19 has left many of us isolated and in need of encouragement. Our desire is to draw strength and guidance from the Truth of God's Word - To let it shape us, change us, strengthen our faith, and advance the gospel for Christ's glory.

Paul's letter to the church in Philippi does exactly this. It is a letter full of instruction and exhortation that, when heeded, can transform the way we live in adversity.

This study uses the Inductive Bible Study Method to guide understanding. We hope you'll join us as we meet virtually on Monday evenings for four weeks to work through the text together. You'll then use the strategies you've practiced to study a few verses independently at home and return to our meetings having reviewed the previous week's scripture. We'll have a time of sharing and discussion before working through the following week's text as a group. By the end of the four weeks, you'll have studied the entire book Philippians and gained what we hope is a deep and transformative understanding.

For more details on the structure of this study, please see the schedule and outline on the following page.

You are welcome here - Whether you're new at studying the Bible this way, a seasoned woman of the Word, have young children running around in the background, or are just trying to hold it together right now. Our prayer is that we join together as a sisterhood of believers - Putting aside worry and inhibition to fully engage in the Word during this time of trial.

We're excited to learn alongside you and have you as a vital part of the Arise Collective. May this season of sacrifice and adversity be one that help us "stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27).

With great expectation,
Lisa DaSilva

Lisa DaSilva

Outline

MONDAY, APRIL 20TH - SESSION 1

Introduction & Overview of Philippians

Guided Inductive Study: Philippians 1:1-26

Independent Study at home: Philippians 1:27-30

MONDAY, APRIL 27TH - SESSION 2

Review and discuss Independent Study (Philippians 1:27-30)

Guided Inductive Study of Philippians 2:1-18

Independent Study at home: Philppians 2:19-30

MONDAY, MAY 4TH - SESSION 3

Review and discuss Independent Study (Philippians 2:19-30)

Guided Inductive Study of Philippians 3:1-14

Independent Study at home: Philippians 3:15-21 AND 4:1-3

MONDAY, MAY 11TH - SESSION 4

Review Independent Study (Philippians 3:15-21 AND 4:1-3)

Guided Inductive Study of Philippians 4:4-23

Conclusion and Exhortation

How to Study Inductively

HELPFUL HINTS & STRATEGIES

The purpose of an Inductive Bible Study Method is to understand the Word of God by observing the text (discovering what the passage says), interpreting it (figuring out what it means), and applying the message of Bible passages to our lives (determining how it can change us, and obediently walking in light of the Truth we've learned). It seeks to help us understand the Word for ourselves, instead of solely relying on another's ideas and interpretation.

Begin in prayer and ask God to open your eyes and heart to the Truth of His Word. May the Lord bless you richly as you persevere and commit to studying the Bible. It's not easy, but always profitable (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

OBSERVE//WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask yourself the five W's while reading through the text. It may seem redundant but will help you remember what you've learned and keep the content in context.

- Who was the author writing to?
- Why was this particular passage/ book/ letter written?
- What is happening in the passage?
- When and where did this take place?

In addition to answering the questions above and reflecting on them each time you read from or study a passage, book, or chapter in the Bible, consider doing the following:

- Mark key words. Pay special attention to repeated phrases.
- If you see a list, make a note of it, and write it in a notebook or in the margins of your Bible.
- Look for comparisons and contrasts. These usually begin with but, like, and or.
- Mark terms and phrases of finality or cause. These often include therefore, thus, or so. They summarize or build previous verses and give deep meaning to the author's purpose.
- Pay particular attention to "if- then" statements. They reveal cause and effect of behavior or action.

INTERPRET//WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Interpretation of the text flows naturally from your direct observations. This is where you get to think more deeply about the things you noted and figure out what they mean. The following strategies will guide you to deeper understanding:

- Look up cross-references in the margins of your Bible. This will help you use scripture to interpret scripture, and supplement what you already observed by putting it in a more detailed historical or cultural setting.
- Utilize word studies to discover what words meant in the original Greek or Hebrew. Sometimes this changes what we originally assumed a passage meant and/ or provides greater depth to our understanding.
- Ask: What would the original hearers, audience, or readers have thought? How does this passage fit within the greater story of the Bible? Within the Gospel?
- Paraphrase (rewrite the text in your own words) based on your observations and understanding from the previous steps.

APPLY//HOW CAN IT CHANGE ME?

We are all works in progress - Praise God! While it's essential to both observe and interpret the Truth to understand it fully, studying is futile if we are not changed as a result. God did not give us His Word just so we would KNOW it-He gave it to us so we would LIVE it. It's here where we mull over everything we've learned, reflect on what the scripture tells us about who God is, and ask Him how these truths apply to our own lives. Consider the following questions (and more as they come to mind):

- What does this passage reveal about God and His character?
- What is God leading you to do differently in response to these observations?
- What might these truths look like in action today? In your day-to-day life? In your goals and dreams? In your family? In your ministry?
- Is the Holy Spirit bringing to mind any specific people, circumstances, conversations, or sins for your prayer, repentance, and reconciliation? If so, take time to lay them before Him.
- Is there a belief you need to re-examine, or thinking that needs to change in light of this text?
- What is the first action you can take in response to what you've learned - Forgive? Serve? Go? Stop?

Key Words and Phrases

Our suggestions for marking key words and phrases are below, but feel free to experiment and mark the words in a way that makes sense to you. The ultimate goal is to look for patterns and themes that will better help you understand and remember the text.

Day of Christ	Christ Jesus	God
Gospel	Love/ Heart	Righteousness
Imprisonment	Joy/ Rejoice	Mind/ Attitude
Pray/ Prayer	Suffer	Spirit
Glory	Die/ Death	
Geographical Locations	Time References	

Many of these suggestions for marking key words are borrowed from Precepts International. You can learn more about their incredible studies by visiting www.precept.org

Making Lists

As you study Paul's letter to the Philippians, make note of lists/repeated themes you see and write them in the margins of your Bible or in a separate notebook. Sometimes these are easy to spot and are together in a few verses. Other times they're spread out throughout the book - Like Paul's prayers (in the first and last chapter) and instructions to the church (throughout the entire letter). It may be helpful to include the chapter and verse so you can refer back to it. We've included some examples below to get you started.

PAUL'S PRAYERS:
1:3-5 - Thanksgiving for their participation in the gospel

PAUL'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PHILIPPIANS:
1:27 - To conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel

Overview of Philippians

AUTHOR:

GENRE:

AUDIENCE:

PURPOSE:

OVERALL SUMMARY: _____ is writing to _____ in an effort to

_____

_____

_____

CHAPTER	MAIN POINTS	KEY VERSE(S)
1		
2		
3		
4		

Hints for Independent Study

In addition to marking key words, adding to your lists, and filling in the overview chart, think about the following questions. We'll use some of these to guide our discussion each week, so it may be helpful to think them through/help organize your thoughts in preparation of sharing.

- What did you notice about this particular passage that you hadn't before? Did you learn anything new? Did anything jump out at you?
- What did you learn by marking _____?
- What did this passage reveal about the character of God?
- How can you apply what you learned to your own life? What do you need to do to live in light of this understanding? Is there an action you need to take? Go? stop? Serve? Obey?