



## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Philippians 1:3-8, 2:1-11 | February 3

**Welcome! Thank you for joining us in studying through Acts!**

**The book of Acts tells the story of how the Gospel of Jesus spread throughout the world of the first century A.D. — and one man (Paul) was especially instrumental in that effort.** Paul not only traveled on multiple journeys speaking the Gospel and starting new churches, but he also wrote letters to many of those new congregations.

The Bible includes 13 of those letters! (Find a chart of all 13 letters [here!](#)) As we continue our study in Acts, our midweek studies occasionally will focus on one of those letters (also called epistles).

**Tonight we will be in Philippians, a letter written to the church in Philippi about 15 years after Paul visited the city.** That visit is recorded in Acts 16, during Paul's second missionary journey.

- Think back: What happened in Philippi? Who did Paul meet? Under what circumstances did that church begin? Why did Paul leave that city?

**Paul was probably under house arrest in Rome when he penned Philippians.** Overall, Philippians is a letter of joyful encouragement to the church members of Philippi. Paul also wants this congregation to remain united around the Gospel of Jesus.

### **Read Philippians 1:3-8.**

- Based on these opening verses, how does Paul feel about the church at Philippi? What words and phrases stand out to you and why?

We will focus on one passage — Philippians 2:1-11 — that Paul writes to help them (and us) live more like Jesus in our lives and in our church.

### **Read Philippians 2:1-11.**

- What instructions are given in verses 1-5? How does the list make you feel? Why?
- Why is unity important for a church?
- How would you define the word humility (verse 3)? (*Submission, thinking of yourself last, lowly.*) Is humility a common characteristic in our culture? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to "count others more significant than yourselves"? Does that come naturally to you? Why or why not?

### **Re-read verses 6-8.**

- What characteristics of Jesus does Paul highlight?
- What does Paul mean that Jesus "was in the form of God" (verse 6)?
- What does Paul mean in verse 7 that Jesus "emptied himself"? Was Jesus still fully God when He became man? (Yes.)

- How did Jesus demonstrate perfect humility, based on these verses?
- Why did Jesus humble himself to the point of death? How does that cause you to worship Him?
- How should Jesus' humility compel us to show humility in our daily lives?

**Finally, re-read verses 9-11.**

- Because of what Jesus did, what did God do? What does this teach you about God?
- What is the promise in these verses? How does that encourage you today?

What role should humility play in our lives as Christians and church members? How can living in humility impact your family, church, community, and the world for the sake of the Gospel?

**Close in prayer. Pray specifically that we would have the mind of Christ in ourselves so that the Gospel message becomes the most important thing to us.**

## **KIDS FOCUS**

**Philippians is a letter in the Bible written by a missionary named Paul to a church in the city of Philippi. Do you remember Lydia, the slave girl and the jailer (from Acts 16)? They were all part of this church.**

**Find the letter of Philippians in your Bible and read Philippians 1:3-5.** Is this a happy letter or sad letter? How can you tell? How does Paul feel about the church in Philippi? Why?

Paul wanted to write this letter to them to remind them how much Jesus loves them!

- Tonight, can you draw/write on a card to someone that is special to you and remind them how much Jesus loves them? Ask your parents to help you mail it when you are finished.

**Close in prayer. Pray that you would know the truth about Jesus and that you would be so excited to share it with someone!**

# PAUL'S LETTERS

LETTER	DATE	RECIPIENTS	PLACE OF WRITING
Galatians	48	Churches in south Galatia	Syrian Antioch
1 Thessalonians	49–51	Church in Thessalonica	Corinth
2 Thessalonians	49–51	Church in Thessalonica	Corinth
1 Corinthians	53–55	Church in Corinth	Ephesus
2 Corinthians	55–56	Church in Corinth	Macedonia
Romans	57	Church in Rome	Corinth
Philippians	62	Church in Philippi	Rome (in prison)
Colossians	62	Church in Colossae	Rome (in prison)
Philemon	62	Philemon	Rome (in prison)
Ephesians	62	Church in Ephesus (and other churches in Asia Minor)	Rome (in prison)
1 Timothy	62–64	Timothy	Macedonia
Titus	62–64	Titus	Nicopolis
2 Timothy	64- 67	Timothy	Rome (in prison)