

Deep Dive Wednesday

Deep Dive Session: The Book of Philippians

Wednesdays | Nov. 5 - Nov. 19, 2025



Study Schedule

WEEK	DATE	CHAPTERS COVERED
1	November 5	Introduction & Chapter 1
2	November 12	Chapters 2 & 3
3	November 19	Chapter 4



Week 1 — Introduction & Chapter 1

November 5

Introduction to the Book of Philippians

Author

The Apostle Paul, joined by Timothy, wrote this letter while imprisoned in Rome (around 61–63 A.D.). Both the content of the letter and historical testimony from early church leaders like Polycarp and Irenaeus confirm Paul's authorship.

The City of Philippi

Philippi, located in ancient Macedonia and named after Philip of Macedonia (father of Alexander the Great), was a Roman colony on the Egnatian Way, a key trade route between Rome and Asia. Its residents enjoyed full Roman citizenship, a status Paul references in Philippians 3:20 when speaking of our "citizenship in heaven."

The Church at Philippi

The church was founded during Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 16:6–12) after he received a vision calling him to Macedonia. Key early converts included Lydia, a merchant of purple cloth, and the Philippian jailer and his family. This largely Gentile congregation became known for its generosity and deep partnership in the gospel, faithfully supporting Paul's ministry even after his departure.

Time and Place of Writing

Philippians is one of Paul's four "Prison Epistles" (along with Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon), written during his Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:16, 30–31).

Purpose of the Letter

Paul wrote to thank the Philippians for their gift delivered by Epaphroditus, to encourage them despite his imprisonment, and to address unity issues between two women leaders, Euodia and Syntyche (Phil. 4:2–3). He also shared updates about his plans to send Timothy and Epaphroditus to them soon.

Week 1 — Introduction & Chapter 1

November 5

Theme of the Epistle

The heartbeat of Philippians is JOY — joy that transcends circumstances. The words joy and rejoice appear repeatedly throughout the letter, earning Philippians the title of Paul's "Hymn of Joy."

Key Verse:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!" — Philippians 4:4

Chapter 1 Key Points

- God Finishes What He Starts — Paul reminds the Philippians that the work God began in them will be completed (1:6).
- Purpose in the Process — Paul's imprisonment advanced the gospel (1:12-14).
- Living with a Kingdom Perspective — "To live is Christ, to die is gain" (1:21).
- Stand United — Conduct yourselves worthy of the gospel; stand firm in one spirit (1:27).
- Suffering with Purpose — Believing in Christ includes the honor of suffering for Him (1:29-30).

How do we Apply?

- Partner in prayer and service with others spreading the gospel.
- Reframe adversity—your hardship may be an open door for God's message.
- Choose gratitude and courage over fear.
- Live and lead as a reflection of Christ's steadfastness.

Week 1 — Introduction & Chapter 1

November 5

Study Questions

- 1) On which missionary journey was the church at Philippi established?
- 2) What are the other “prison epistles”?
- 3) What prompted the writing of Philippians?
- 4) What is Paul confident of concerning the Philippians (1:6)?
- 5) Upon what basis did Paul have this confidence concerning the Philippians? (1:7)
- 6) What 4 things did Paul pray for on behalf of the Philippians? (1:9-11)
- 7) What was Paul’s attitude toward life and death? (1:21)
- 8) Between what 2 things was Paul hard pressed? (1:23-24)
- 9) What sort of conduct did Paul consider worthy of the gospel of Christ? (1:27)
- 10) What had been granted to the Philippians on behalf of Christ? (1:29)

Week 2 — Chapters 2 & 3

November 12

Key Points

- Unity grows out of humility—esteem others higher than yourself (2:3-4).
- Christ modeled ultimate humility by leaving glory and taking the form of a servant (2:5-8).
- God exalted Him, giving Him the name above every name (2:9-11).
- Shine as lights—live blamelessly and hold fast the Word of life (2:14-16).
- Beware of pride or misplaced confidence in the flesh (3:2-6).
- Count all things loss for the excellence of knowing Christ (3:7-10).
- Press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call (3:13-14).
- Remember: your citizenship is in heaven (3:20-21).

How do we apply?

- **Follow Jesus' example of self-emptying love—serve rather than seek status.**
- **Replace boasting in human achievement with dependence on Christ.**
- **Keep pressing toward spiritual maturity; don't stay stuck in past wins or failures.**
- **Live like heaven is your true home, representing Christ on earth.**

Week 2 — Chapters 2 & 3

November 12

Study Questions

- 1) What 4 things should serve as a motivation for unity? (2:1) What should be the nature of our unity? (2:2)
- 2) What 4 things are necessary to maintain unity? (2:3-5)
- 3) What did Paul want his beloved brethren to do in his absence? (2:12)
- 4) What 2 things are necessary if we are to be children of God without fault, harmless and blameless, shining as lights in the world? (2:14-16)
- 5) What does Paul warn against? (3:2)
- 6) What was Paul's earnest desire? (3:9-11)
- 7) Did Paul view himself as having already attained, or having been perfected? (3:12)
- 8) According to Paul what was the "one thing" he did? (3:13-14)
- 9) Where is our citizenship? (3:20)
- 10) What will Christ do when He comes again? (3:21)

Week 3 — Chapter 4

November 19

Key Points

- Stand Firm & Stay Unified — Paul calls Euodia and Syntyche to reconcile (4:1-3).
- Rejoice Always — Joy is a decision, not a reaction (4:4-5).
- Pray Instead of Worrying — Prayer with thanksgiving ushers in peace beyond understanding (4:6-7).
- Guard Your Thoughts — Think on what is true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and praiseworthy (4:8).
- Learn Contentment — Paul learned to be content in every circumstance (4:11-12).
- Christ is the Source of Strength — “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (4:13).
- Give Generously — Their gifts were a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God; He supplies every need (4:18-19).

How do we apply?

- Practice peace: swap anxiety for prayer + thanksgiving (4:6-7).
- Curate your focus: use Paul’s thought-filter in 4:8 to steer your mindset.
- Train contentment: resist comparison; journal daily gratitude (4:11-12).
- Rely on Christ’s power for your limits and leadership (4:13).
- Worship through generosity this season—plan one intentional gift/blessing (4:18-19).
- Pursue unity: make the first move to reconcile where needed (4:1-3).

Week 3 — Chapter 4

November 19

Study Questions

- 1) How does Paul describe his brethren as he exhorts them to stand fast in the Lord? (4:1)
- 2) What two women does Paul implore to be of the same mind in the Lord? (4:2) What is said about these two women (4:3)
- 3) In what are we to rejoice always? (4:4)
- 4) Why are we to let our gentleness (or moderation) be known to all men? (4:5) What does this mean to you? How can you apply?
- 5) What is the antidote for anxiety? (4:6) What will the peace of God do in response to our prayer? (4:7)
- 6) Upon what should we meditate on? (4:8)
- 7) What had Paul learned? (4:11-12) Have you learned this?
- 8) How was Paul able to do all things? (4:13) Do you believe this can be applied to you?
- 9) What was Paul's final prayer for his beloved Philippians? (4:23)

Closing Reflection — Keep Diving Deep

As we conclude our 2025 Deep Dive journey, remember that studying God's Word is more than reading—it's relationship.

A deep dive allows us to go beyond surface inspiration into spiritual transformation—where Scripture speaks personally, powerfully, and practically to our everyday lives. The goal is not just to get through the Word, but to let the Word get through to you.

As we look ahead, join us in 2026 as we continue to dive deep into God's Word together—building on the firm foundation of Scripture to grow stronger in faith, deeper in roots, and richer in joy through Jesus Christ.

Ways to Continue Diving Deep

As you prepare for next year's Deep Dive, go back over your previous lessons and workbooks—they are valuable resources designed to strengthen your walk with Christ. Let what you've already learned continue to shape how you live, lead, and grow.

- **Read Regularly:** Establish a daily or weekly rhythm for Scripture reading that keeps your heart anchored in truth.
- **Reflect Intentionally:** Revisit notes and journal entries; write new insights and record answered prayers as reminders of God's faithfulness.
- **Pray Through the Word:** Turn Scripture into declarations, prayers, and personal confessions that build your faith.
- **Apply What You Learn:** Move from information to transformation—live out biblical principles in your home, work, and ministry.
- **Worship While You Study:** Allow the Word to stir gratitude, deepen your devotion, and lead you into heartfelt worship.

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only...”

James 1:22