

INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS

THEME VERSE: Philippians 4:4 - "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."

WHO:

Paul-
Apostle of Jesus Christ (Acts 9)

The Church at Philippi-
Paul planted this church during his second missionary journey (Acts 16:12-40)

WHERE/WHEN:

- Paul most likely wrote this letter to the Philippians when he was imprisoned in Rome in AD 60-62 (1:12-14)
- Philippi, a Greek city in the region of Macedonia, was the first town where Paul established a church

WHY:

- To inform them about his circumstances at Rome (1:12-26)
- To exhort them to unity (2:1-2; 4:2)
- To explain why he sent Epaphroditus to them (2:25-27)
- To warn against false teachers (3:1-4:1)
- To thank the Philippians for their gift (4:10-18)

For us today - Paul shares a real example of how to find joy in every circumstance (4:4-7)

NO MATTER WHAT

Practice
this verse
all week!!

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

ELEMENTARY

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 1:6 -

"being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Songs & additional
resources under
the Philippians tab
in the Grace
Church App.

Helpful Definitions:

Partnership in the gospel -

believers working together to
share the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Confident -

sure, positive



TALK

*Read Psalm 16:11,
Romans 15:13,
Galatians 5:22-23
for what God's
word says about joy

-What is the "good work in you"?

-Paul says "I always pray with joy" yet he is in prison. Talk about your own life circumstances and how you've had joy - or failed to have joy - when life situations are difficult.

-How do we have joy in challenging circumstances? Where does joy come from?



PRAY

Who do we need to thank God for in our lives? Who are our partners in the gospel? Pray for them and thank God right now!

WORKING TOGETHER

Give your child a simple task to do but limit the body parts they can use to do it. Discuss how challenging it was without all their parts. Explain how just like our physical bodies work together to accomplish tasks, the body of Christ works together to spread the gospel. We partner physically by helping & serving, spiritually by praying, encouraging, & teaching, and financially when we help support our local church, missionaries & other ministry needs.



MOVE

Practice
this verse
all week!!

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18

ELEMENTARY

Songs & additional
resources under
the Philippians tab
in the Grace
Church App.

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 1:18 - "What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice."

Helpful Definitions:

Pretense -

false claim
or an act

Selfish ambition

a "self-above-others"
approach



TALK

*Read James 1:2-4
& Romans 5:3-5

- Paul mentions his imprisonment has actually helped to further the gospel. Can you think of other examples in Scripture where something was meant for evil, but God used it for good?

- What are some examples in your own life of when this has happened?

- From these verses - what is Paul's goal in life?

- How should we adjust our lives to imitate Paul? (See 1 Corinthians 11:1)



Pray that the Lord would give us confidence and boldness to share the gospel with those around us. Who can we pray for specifically to share Jesus with this week?

ACTIVITY: COLLECTION FOR FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

In Bainbridge & Donalsonville, Christ is proclaimed to children at the Friendship House of Jesus (FH). Take your child to the store and pick out individually packaged snacks for the FH to use this summer during their program. Share with your child what the FH does and pray for their ministry this summer. Drop off at church any Sunday.



Practice
this verse
all week!!

PHILIPPIANS 1:19-26

ELEMENTARY

Songs & additional
resources under
the Philippians tab
in the Grace
Church App.

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 1:21 -

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Helpful Definitions:

Gain -

advantage

Eternal Life -

Life forever
with God

Fruitful Labor -

Sharing the gospel & building
up other believers to do the
same



TALK

- What does Paul mean "to live is Christ?"
- How do we live for Christ?
- What does Paul mean "to die is gain?" (see verse 23)

*Read Galatians 2:20
and Romans 12:1-2

Think of someone you love deeply and how it feels to anticipate spending time with them. Paul loved Jesus so much that to be with Jesus was what he wanted most. But he loved the Philippians too and wanted to be able to help and teach them until he could be with Jesus forever.



PRAY

Pray, confessing that we don't always love Jesus as we should. Ask Him to grow our hearts to know and love him more. Ask that our lives would be full of fruitful labor, contagious faith, and grateful praise to our Creator, Savior, and Friend.

ACTIVITY: NOTE TO A MISSIONARY

Use the note in the additional resources packet, or create your own to send to one of our missionaries (see app). Talk to your child about the sacrifices these missionaries have made; leaving family, their homes, their foods, their safety so that others might know about Jesus. Pray for them and write a note encouraging them to continue on, for the worth of Jesus is far greater than the sacrifices we can make.



MOVE

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this verse
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PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30

ELEMENTARY

Songs & additional
resources under
the Philippians tab
in the Grace
Church App.

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 1:27a "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ..."

Helpful Definitions:

Worthy of the gospel -

a life of integrity; to live consistent with what you believe, teach, and preach



TALK

Read Hebrews 12.
Are there any
things that hinder
us from "running
the race"?

- What does it or should it look like for our family to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel?

- In Philippians 1:27 it mentions being "in one Spirit, striving together as one for faith.." Are we connected to other believers in this way? How can we strengthen these connections this summer?



PRAY

Pray that the Lord would be honored in our family - that our lives would be worthy of the gospel of Christ - and for boldness and strength to stand firm despite opposition and difficulties.

ACTIVITY: CREATE A FAMILY MOTTO

A family motto is a filter by which to guide and direct our decisions, our interactions, and where we spend our time, money, and energy as a family. Whether you've written one or not... you have one, and sometimes it's not what you would want it to be. Talk together about what makes your family unique, how God can use your family to point others to Him, and what things you want your family to be known for. It could be one statement or a series of statements. Write it down so you can reference and remind each other often. (ex. Hearts and home open, Encourage and celebrate others, Make the most of every opportunity)



MOVE

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PHILIPPIANS 2:1-18

ELEMENTARY

Songs & additional
resources under
the Philippians tab
in the Grace
Church App.

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 2:14-15 - "Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like the stars in the sky"

Helpful Definitions:

Blameless and pure -

innocent, not mixed with sin

In vain -

without success
or result

Warped -

straying from God's path,
twisted and distorted

Humility -

valuing others above yourself

TALK

- Discuss how your family can specifically live out Phil 2:1-4.

As you can see - this kind of humility & life can only be realized by those who have trusted in Jesus. Walking in Christ-like humility is hard, and our children will fail. For children who have not trusted in Jesus yet, take the opportunity to point them to their need for a Savior. For children who have professed faith, encourage them to pray, repent, and ask God for the strength and ability to walk in His ways. Don't be afraid to be honest with your kids about your failures! Help them to see you are still a work in progress - and together - united in the Gospel - you will see God do great things!



Confess that - on our own - we live self-over-others lives. Thank God for Jesus' perfect life and example of how to live a life of humility. Ask Him to help us walk this week in a way that shines like the stars - pointing others to see, know, and follow Jesus!

ACTIVITY: UNDER THE STARS

Take a blanket outside after dark and lay under the stars or go for a walk at night. Talk together about Paul's words in vs. 15 "then you will shine among them like the stars in the sky." How do others view your life? Do you blend in with everyone around you? Or do you stand out by walking in God's way? Jesus calls himself the light of the world, the word is a light unto our path, and we are called to shine like stars and be a light to draw others to Jesus.



Practice
this verse
all week!!

PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

ELEMENTARY

Songs & additional
resources under
the Philippians tab
in the Grace
Church App.

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 2:22 "But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with his father he has served with me in the gospel."

Helpful Definitions:

Proven -

shown through his
actions

Mercy -

loving-kindness of God
given to undeserving and
broken sinners

Worth -

of great value

TALK

- Why do you think Paul starts talking about Timothy and Epaphroditus (**e-paf-ro-di'-tus**) in the middle of his letter?

- Discuss how Timothy and Epaphroditus are examples for us. (See 1 Corinthians 4:16-17; 2 Timothy 1:2-12; Philippians 4:18-19) What are some qualities that you should imitate? (Note the descriptions in verses 20, 22, and 25)

- Epaphroditus specifically showed concern for the church at Philippi - share specific ways that you as a family could show this same care and concern for your church family!



Thank God for the gift of a church family and those that serve and teach us every week. Pray for our pastors, elders/deacons, Gkids leaders, and the whole church body - that we will grow in loving and serving one another - and that others would be drawn to Jesus through our church family.

ACTIVITY: CARE, CONCERN & LOVE

One way we show care, concern, and love as a church here at Grace is by meeting the needs of those sometimes forgotten. This week remember the elderly in our community. Pray for them, consider collecting hygiene items for the "Jesus is ___" ministry (see app for more info), and draw a picture or write a note to encourage them. Also, mark your calendars to attend Hymn sing this month on July 31st at 6:00pm. Drop collection items at the table this Sunday.



MOVE

Practice
this verse
all week!!

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-14

ELEMENTARY

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 3:13-14 - "One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Songs & additional
resources under
the Philippians tab
in the Grace
Church App.

Helpful Definitions:

Safeguard -
protection

Press on -
continue moving forward
in a forceful & steady way

Upward call -
the invitation to
Christlikeness we will
experience fully in heaven

TALK

This week is a great opportunity to share your personal testimony with your kids. Paul clearly lays out his gains apart from Christ and the false confidence it provided. **BUT FOR CHRIST...** verses 7-9 clearly show Paul's true confidence rests in "*righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.*"

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead."

Prayerfully consider what you could share in these moments to show how God has changed you and show how even though you aren't perfect,

"I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it...", God is still at work.



Pray that the Lord would show us what worldly gains we may be placing our confidence in instead of true eternal confidence that comes by faith in Christ alone. Pray that the Lord would use our testimony of His work in our lives to encourage faith in the lives of our children and all those we share the gospel to this week.

ACTIVITY: NOTHING I'VE DONE

Have both you and your child think about and write on pieces of paper some of their biggest accomplishments this year. Maybe they've lost 3 teeth, won a baseball game, or got all A's in school. Read Philippians 3:8-9. Take turns crumpling and shooting your accomplishments into the trash. Talk about how none of our accomplishments can gain us anything apart from Jesus.



Practice
this verse
all week!!

PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21

ELEMENTARY

Songs & additional
resources under
the Philippians tab
in the Grace
Church App.

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 3:20-21 - "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself."

Helpful Definitions:

Citizenship -

our identity and belonging

Subject -

to arrange under, put
under one's control



TALK

Read verse 17 - Think about examples of strong believers that your family knows. In what ways are they good examples to follow?

Read verses 18-19 - Talk about the description of false teachers. "Their mind is set on earthly things." Talk honestly about the things both "good and bad" that work to take our eyes off eternal things and on earthly things.



PRAY

Pray and repent of where you have placed earthly things ahead of spiritual things and where you have clung to this world instead of placing your identity and belonging in your heavenly citizenship. Pray with your child that they would place their identity fully in Christ.

ACTIVITY: FOLLOW ME

Play a game of Copy Cat, or have your child do something right alongside of you. Do a chore together, go for a walk, or cook supper. Talk about people you "follow". How do you imitate them? Do you have spiritual examples of who you imitate as they follow Christ? What are some attributes of Jesus we can imitate? Share with your child and pray they would find godly examples to follow.



MOVE

Songs & additional resources under the Philippians tab in the Grace Church App.

Practice this verse all week!!

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-23

ELEMENTARY

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus."

Helpful Definitions:

Anxious -
worried, nervous

Transcends all understanding -
can not be understood or explained in a human way

Prayer -
talking to God



TALK

Read verse 8 together. Do these things characterize your thought life? What thoughts do you have that do not reflect Paul's instruction here? Give some specific examples of lies or sinful thoughts that you are tempted to believe or dwell on and look to God's word for Truth.

Create a plan together for what to do when you have these thoughts. Encourage one another to battle against lies and thoughts that don't reflect Christ.



PRAY

Pray for your child's thought life; that the Word of God would guide what they believe about God, themselves, and the world around them. Thank God for His Word which is a powerful weapon against the lies of Satan and the world.

ACTIVITY: PRAYER SCAVENGER HUNT

Cut out the prayer location strips and place them where they go around your home. Start at your child's bedroom and follow the clues, praying at each location. Let your child lead you to each new location and take turns praying.



MOVE