

**GROWING
WITH
JESUS**

PHILIPPIANS



**A Great
Commission
Alliance
Resource**

greatcommissionalliance.org

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel”

Philippians 1:27



Growing with Jesus: Philippians

Copyright © 2021 by the Great Commission Alliance

All rights reserved. This book, or any portion thereof, may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for cited quotations of 500 words or less.

Scripture references quoted from NIV unless otherwise noted.

Printed in the United States of America

First Printing, 2021

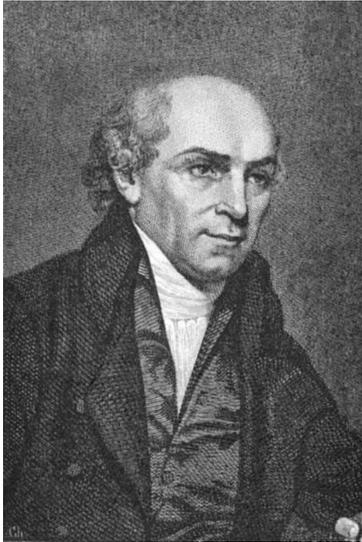
ISBN: MMM-MMMMMMMMMMM

The Great Commission Alliance
Greatcommissionalliance.org



In Memory of William Carey

“Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.” - William Carey



William Carey was born in England in 1761. He was a Baptist missionary who became known as the father of modern missions. He boldly challenged believers with the quote at the top of this page. The encouragement to expect great things from God and attempt great things for God was a defining characteristic of Carey's life.

He left the comforts of home for a far away land, traveling to India to reach people with the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. He faced difficulties and obstacles for the faith of the gospel. He served faithfully in India until his death in 1834.

Carey's ministry epitomizes so much of what we'll learn about in Philippians. Ministry perseverance, missionary work, and enduring obstacles of all sorts for the cause of the gospel are all themes you'll encounter in this study.



Participant Instructions

In order to get the most out of this time, we strongly encourage you to arrive early for each week's session. We will begin promptly and we don't want anyone to miss even a moment of all God has for them in this. Feel free to show up 15 minutes early or to stay late after the Bible study ends to fellowship with friends.

We also want to encourage you to be here every week throughout the course of this study. We understand things may come up and there is always grace but please prioritize being here for the next five weeks. More on that in a minute.

As a participant in this Bible Study, you play a vital role. Your unique past and walk with Christ enable you to see different aspects and observations that no one else might notice. Speak up! It can definitely be scary to share your questions and thoughts because you don't know how others will respond or what they will think of you, but please, speak up. Work through each chapter ahead of time, writing down observations and answers to study questions, so you'll be prepared to contribute.

To avoid the trap of people pleasing, consider what God thinks. Evaluate what you plan on saying and check to make sure it falls into one of these categories: 1) You want to say something because you think it will encourage and strengthen others in their faith. 2) You want to share an observation you made about the text. Or, 3) you want to ask a question because it will help you in your walk with Christ. If what you want to say doesn't fit into one of these categories, it could be a distraction from the Bible study rather than an addition to it.

Definitely share your thoughts but also make sure you give room to other people to speak. This Bible study isn't about you. Weigh your reasons for speaking, because if each thought you want to share doesn't line up with



those three categories then you could just be trying to turn the focus to yourself rather than God. Share your observations and try to encourage others to contribute as well. Always be respectful and loving towards other members.

At the end of the first day, you and your fellow Bible study members will sign a commitment to show up and contribute to this small group (by bringing snacks and other possibilities). Hold to your word. It will be hard, and no doubt things will pop up that will make you want to skip a week, but keep your commitment unless an emergency arises. Show up when you say you will show up, bring snacks if and when you commit to bring snacks, and always be a team player.



Facilitator Instructions

As a facilitator in this Bible study, you have a very important role. You must set an example for the group. Make sure you show up early each week. Even if the others typically show up late, you are the facilitator. Be early. And start on time. Try not to waste your time together. Set a culture by starting on time each week. This is essential as each week's study will require about an hour and fifteen minutes for study and discussion. Encourage participants to catch up and fellowship together 15 minutes before the Bible study starts or after the Bible study ends. Start on time.

Be familiar with the passages you're covering. Memorize each week's key verse and encourage others to do as well. Bring any supplies you need to bring. Bring snacks and name tags the first week, a package of gumdrops, a small box of uncooked spaghetti noodles, and a few miniature candy bars (make sure they're nut-free in case anyone has a nut allergy) the second week, bread, grape juice, and cups for communion the fourth week, and more miniature candy bars the fifth week. Always set an example of godliness and grace in all you say and do.

As the facilitator, your job is not to be heard, but to provide the space for others to share. Of course you should still speak and share your thoughts, but make it a priority to give others more opportunities to speak. Sometimes this means remaining quiet even when you know the answer to a question. This also means making sure there's a culture of respect. If someone is being disrespectful or rude to another participant, it's your job to speak up right from the start in a loving and gentle way. Build a culture of love and acceptance and gradually even the most quiet participant will feel valued enough to contribute to the study.

Talking about quieter participants, learn to draw them out. Don't put them on the spot or embarrass them but make sure to ask them



occasionally if they want to add anything. When they do, make sure to affirm their participation and show them they have a place in the group.

Keep observation answer times to about 4 minutes. Each chapter will have 6-10 questions so you will need to help participants keep their observations brief. Have two or three people at most answer each question and encourage them to keep their answers short. Since there are so many questions, everyone should have an opportunity to share. With few exceptions, try not to spend more than 4 minutes as a group on any single question. Don't be rude but do encourage people to be concise.

Always keep the group focused and on track. It's okay to investigate an interesting idea, but the purpose of this study is to grow closer to God and each other and grow in your faith. If a conversation diverges from this for too long to pursue an unimportant topic, step into the conversation in a gentle way and steer it back on track. Always bring things back to biblical fundamentals.

As a facilitator, you must be prepared. Work through each week's chapter ahead of time. Be ready to guide the group through the content. Ask different participants to read different chapter sections and Bible passages. Try to involve everyone but don't force those who aren't comfortable reading out loud to do that. Your job is to coach the group through this and engage them at their level.

Some of the activities will require supplies; make sure you bring them. The facilitator should bring snacks and name tags the first week. Also make sure to remind the participants of their responsibilities ahead of time. For example, the night before your small group meets, make sure to text whoever is responsible for that week's snacks to remind them to bring snacks. The quality of this small group will have a lot to do with your preparation, so please, don't drop the ball!



Your last and most important responsibility as the facilitator is to be praying for the people in your group. Make it a priority to pray for them daily! God is going to work in people's lives and you get to be a part of it. That is exciting!



Contents

Preface	11
Week 1 - An Introduction to Philippians	12
Week 2 - Philippians 1: Collaboration	19
Week 3 - Philippians 2: Christlikeness	25
Week 4 - Philippians 3: Confidence	31
Week 5 - Philippians 4: Contentment	37
Week 6 - United in the Great Commission	44
Appendices	49
Appendix A - Important Terms	50
Appendix B - The Gospel	52
Appendix C - The Inductive Bible Study Method	54
Appendix D - The One Minute Witness	56
Appendix E - The Deity of Christ	58
Appendix F - Bible study tools and resources	62
Appendix G - The Exponential Harvest	63
Appendix H - The GCA	64
About the Authors	66
More GCA Resources	67



Preface

Philippians is a book that has inspired Christians for millennia. Although short, it contains fundamental doctrinal truths, an incredible description of Christ and what He has done for us, and timeless encouragements for Christian living and gospel ministry. This New Testament book is a real treasure!

This six-week Bible study will guide you through Philippians chapter by chapter in a fun and conversational way. You'll be introduced to historical details, key characters, and theological principles, but you'll also have an opportunity to practice studying Scripture in a small group setting that will encourage you tremendously. Make sure to review the instructions at the beginning of this book so you'll be ready to get everything you can out of this time.

We sincerely hope this short Bible study will help you grow in your faith and build relationships with other believers. This is only a six-week study, so please stick with it until the end. You have a lot to gain and a lot to give so commit to finishing the next six weeks with your small group and get ready for an unforgettable journey through a really special book of the Bible.



Week 1 - An Introduction to Philippians.

Welcome everyone! Let's pray to start things off!

Hello Saints! Please share your name with the class, starting with "Saint." For example, you can say, "Hi, my name is saint so and so." Then, share your favorite food and a favorite memory as well. Be brief!

Video: Get the week 1 video at greatcommissionalliance.org/philippians

Speaking on a mountain in Galilee, Jesus told His disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). This command involves sharing the gospel and helping believers everywhere grow in their faith. It is known as the Great Commission. Paul, the author of Philippians, considered himself a servant of Christ and you'll see his gospel commitment throughout Philippians.

Q: What are a few things that you think can distract believers from following Christ's Great Commission call?

This week's key verse: Philippians 1:1 (ESV) - Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons.

Don't forget: Please review the instructions earlier in this book. These are essential to making sure everyone gets the most out of this Bible study. Thanks!

Important term: Paul frequently refers to himself as a "servant" (Greek δοῦλος, Strong's 1401, doo'-los) of Christ. However, the force of the term may be blunted with the translation "servant." The term can also be



translated as “slave,” which Paul uses in a positive sense here, in Philippians 1:1. Find out more about this important term in Appendix A.

Interesting Fact: You are a saint! In Philippians 1:1, Paul calls believers saints. This word comes from the Greek root for “holy.” It was used to describe things set apart for God and His work. If you’ve trusted in Christ, this word applies to you! If you haven’t taken that step yet, see Appendix B.

As we begin going through Philippians, we want to start with a couple of notes about the Bible. First, you can trust the Bible! Get a GCA workbook, video series, and more on that at thebestfacts.com. Second, you should be careful to read and study the Bible correctly. Appendix C has some great tips on that!



Photo 102100459 © David Pillow | Dreamstime.com

Character profile: Paul. Paul was a Pharisee with impeccable Jewish roots (Philippians 3:4-6). He had likely been a member of the elite Sanhedrin (Acts 22:20, 26:10-11, Gal. 1:13-14). He had persecuted the church but came to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord (Acts 9:1-6). After trusting in Christ, Paul literally gave up everything, a life of prominence, power and wealth, for

Jesus. Paul was imprisoned, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, and in frequent danger of death; he was accustomed to having few of his needs met (2 Cor. 11:23-29). He had a severe health issue (2 Cor. 12:7-10), which was likely a problem with his eyesight (Acts 23:5, Gal. 4:13, 15, 6:11).

In all of this, God’s grace was sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9) and Paul took the Gospel further than anyone ever had and wrote more of the New Testament than anyone other than Luke.

An Introduction to Philippians



Jim Black from Pixabay

Paul had planned to retrace his first missionary journey to the southeast (Acts 15:36). He set out in that direction and picked up Timothy in Lystra (lai-struh), Acts 16:1, but then headed north into the regions of Galatia (guh-lei-shee-uh) and Phrygia (fri-jee-uh). God kept them from going southwest into the Roman province of Asia or northeast into Bythinia (bih-thihn-ih-uh), Acts 16:6-7. Paul might have been confused but God had a plan. A tenth of the Bible and around half of the New Testament was written by or to people or churches they encountered after this time.

Q: When has God brought good out of a confusing trial for you.

Then God led them straight to Troas (tro-ahs) where they met Luke (notice how Luke, the author of Acts, switches from saying “they” to “we”) and received God’s direction for Macedonia (Acts 16:10). Immediately thereafter, they traveled to Philippi (fi-li-pie), a Roman colony in what is now Greece, to preach the gospel in an unreached area (Acts 16:11-12)!



Q: In Acts 16:6-7, God stops Paul and friends from going into two different areas, because He had a better plan. He wanted to connect them with a key team member (Luke) and lead them to an unreached area (Macedonia). How does this encourage you as you trust God and His timing now?



Shutterstock 681752833

Paul shared the gospel with Lydia by this river (Acts 16:13-15). She was the first convert in Europe. Her family followed her, believed in Christ as well, and they were all baptized! Paul and his team faced persecution in Philippi but they didn't let that stop them from the ministry God had called them to there.

Q: Lydia and the Philippians would never have heard the gospel if Paul and friends hadn't gone to them. Why must the unreached be reached?

About a decade later, Paul wrote Philippians from prison, with Timothy's help. Paul had allowed God to use his trials in Philippi for a gospel purpose and he had the same perspective with his imprisonment when he authored this book (Philippians 1:12-14). He was all in on Christ's Great Commission and happily endured anything for it. The letter he wrote to the Philippians has been encouraging Christians to follow Christ and join Him in His mission ever since.

Q: How does Paul's commitment encourage you considering your purpose?



An outline of Philippians

There is a lot for us to learn in this little book and it will be a very encouraging study together. Our theme in Philippians 1 will be collaboration. In Philippians 2 we'll learn about Christlikeness. The topic in Philippians 3 will be confidence. Then we'll see a picture of contentment in Philippians 4. Get ready for a great time studying this special book together.

Essential truth: Jesus says that if we put his words into practice we will be able to endure all sorts of storms and trials (Matthew 7:24-27). Paul is an excellent example of someone who made Christ and his Word his foundation. As a result, he was able to endure extreme difficulties, like sickness, need, and imprisonment, persevering with joy in God's Great Commission plan (Phil. 1:18). When we make Christ our foundation and value our relationship with Him above all else, we will be able to do the same.

Application

The gospel, the good news of salvation, is a central theme in the book of Philippians. A great way to share your faith with others is the One Minute Witness. Please complete the worksheet in Appendix D and begin practicing sharing your testimony this week. We will encourage you with this essential truth in Philippians each week and you'll need to be able to go back to your One Minute Witness worksheet fairly often.

Conclusion

We hope you enjoyed this introduction to Philippians. Please take some time to read and study Philippians 1 this week in preparation for next week's Bible study. You can even get a head start by noting your



observations in the next chapter so you'll be ready to discuss them next week.

And, one more thing, after prayer, take a few minutes to cover the small group agreement on the next page. Thanks!

Close in prayer!

Please list any prayer requests that participants share below. Always keep sensitive prayer requests confidential. Pray for these needs throughout the week.



A Small Group Agreement

This Bible study will run for the next 5 weeks. To get the most out of this time together, we are asking you to be here every week! You have a lot to give and a lot to gain and it simply won't be the same without you. Spend a few minutes as a group discussing your ideas and taking notes below. There are different things that could make this time great for everyone. For example, you could bring snacks or drinks. Write down whatever you decide on, including who will do what when, in the space below. Then, once everyone is ready to wrap this up, sign below as an expression of your intention to be all in for the next five weeks.

I plan to commit to participating in this small group and growing closer to these friends for the next 5 weeks.

Signed: _____ date: ____/____/____



Week 2 - Philippians 1: Collaboration.

Welcome everyone! Let's pray to start things off!

Teamwork! The facilitator has provided uncooked spaghetti noodles and gumdrops. Divide into 2 to 3 teams and get 10 of each. Work as a team and take three minutes to build the highest structure you can using only uncooked spaghetti noodles and gumdrops. If needed, get more noodles and gumdrops. Give the winning team members candy bars!

Video: Get the week 2 video at greatcommissionalliance.org/philippians

Jesus calls all believers to stand together in loving unity, demonstrating Him to the world. In John 13:34-35, He says, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Christian unity in the cause of Christ is a key aspect of Philippians 1.

This week's key verse: Philippians 1:27 - Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.

Collaboration

In the first chapter of Philippians, we will see the importance of standing unified in the face of opposition. Paul was committed to sharing the gospel, no matter the obstacle, and he was thankful for the Philippians' collaboration. Today we'll look at collaboration in Christ, collaboration in our calling, and collaboration in our conduct.





Photo 131781515 © Messiahphoto |
Dreamstime.com

Character profile: Timothy (1:1). Paul met Timothy in Lystra (lai-struh) at the start of his second missionary journey (Acts 16:1-2). Timothy left his family, friends, home, and city and faithfully served God for the rest of his life. Paul called Timothy son (1 Cor. 4:17, Phil. 2:22, 1 Tim. 1:2, 18, 2 Tim. 1:2), brother (2 Cor. 1:1, Col. 1:1, 1 Thes. 3:2, Philemon 1:1), co-worker (Rom. 16:21, 1 Thes. 3:2), servant of Christ (Phil. 1:1), and man of God (1 Tim. 6:11). Timothy ministered with Paul until the end of Paul's life and contributed to 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. He was also imprisoned for Christ (Heb. 13:23) and served faithfully until his martyrdom at the end of the first century.

Philippians 1:1-11 - Collaboration in Christ

In the first part of this chapter, Paul emphasizes a close walk with Jesus. We cannot fulfill the Great Commission purpose God has for us outside of close fellowship with Jesus.

For today's discussion questions, remember to consider the context, highlight any keywords you notice, and feel free to share any Scripture that relates to this (see Appendix C if needed). This will work best if everyone contributes, so strive to give each other opportunities to share. To finish on time, keep discussion to 4 minutes per question (if you're able to go longer, you can).

Persevering in His grace - read Philippians 1:1-2.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)



Partnering in His gospel - read Philipians 1:3-8.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Important term: The word “gospel” comes from the Greek word εὐαγγελίου (Strong's G2098, yū-än-ge'-le-on). It literally means “good news” and it refers to the good news of salvation in Jesus! As you read about Paul’s gospel commitment, reflect on how the gospel has changed you. Find out more about this important term in Appendix A.

Participating in His goodness - read Philipians 1:9-11.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Philipians 1:12-26 - Collaboration in our calling

In Philipians 1:12-26, Paul offers his own life as an example of commitment to Christ’s calling. Although in prison, and even in danger of death, he was committed to his Great Commission purpose.

A gospel mindset - read Philipians 1:12-14.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)



Interesting Fact: Paul and Silas were imprisoned in the jail pictured here. They willingly and joyfully submitted to persecution with a gospel focus (Acts 16:20-36). They easily could have gotten out of this persecution (Acts 16:37-40) but

chose to endure it to set an example for the young believers who they knew would face persecution after they were gone. A decade later, Paul is again in prison when he writes this letter to the Philippians (see 1:12-14).

Q: How can we allow God to use our trials for His Great Commission plan?

A godly motivation - read Philippians 1:15-20.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

A good mission - read Philippians 1:21-22.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

A generous mentality - read Philippians 1:23-26.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Philippians 1:27-30 - Collaboration in our conduct

Paul concludes chapter one encouraging the Philippians to stand unified in their mission to reach Philippi with the gospel. They had seen Paul's commitment and now he was asking them to follow his example.

United in our testimony - read Philippians 1:27.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)



Unfazed in our trials - read Philippians 1:28-30.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Essential Truth: It's easy to claim we follow Christ, but a self-evaluation can tell a different story. You might doubt two people love each other if you never see them together. In the same way, if we don't spend time with Christ and don't do what He asks us to do (such as serving one another, sharing our faith, and making disciples), our commitment is questionable. When we look at Paul's life, including all his hardships and persecutions, we see a man who loved his Savior and placed total faith in Him. If you are falling short of this, ask God to help you desire Him more, and to give you the strength to obey Him fully.

Interpretation

Considering what we read today and all the different observations that surfaced, what core truths can we take away from this passage? Feel free to share any Scripture that might add clarity.

Application

How can we apply these core truths in our lives? Be specific.



Conclusion

Today we learned about collaboration in Christ, collaboration in our commission, and collaboration in our conduct. You have been called to an amazing Great Commission purpose. Stand strong with Jesus, together with other believers, no matter how hard the world tries to stop you!

Philippians chapter one emphasized partnering in the gospel. Remember what you learned in the application section of last week's session. Keep using your One Minute Witness (Appendix D) to share the gospel this week!

Please take some time to read and study Philippians 2 this week in preparation for next week's Bible study. You can even get a head start by noting your observations in the next chapter so you'll be ready to discuss them next week.

Close in prayer!

Please list any prayer requests that participants share below. Always keep sensitive prayer requests confidential. Pray for these needs throughout the week.



Week 3 - Philippians 2: Christlikeness.

Welcome everyone! Let's pray to start things off!

Superstars! We need one or two people to share briefly about a time when they were in awe of the starry night sky. Were you camping, on a cruise, driving at night, or something different? How were you impacted?

Video: Get the week 3 video at greatcommissionalliance.org/philippians

Jesus tells us, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Like a piece of jewelry sparkles in the sunlight, an object will shine to the degree that it reflects the light around it. God created each of us to shine too, but in order to shine bright, we must reflect the light, Jesus! In Philippians 2, believers are called to follow Christ's example, shining like stars in the sky.

This week's key verse: Philippians 2:8 (ESV) - And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Christlikeness

In Philippians 2, Paul encourages the Philippian believers to live Christlike lives. We're going to focus on four main themes: a Christlike mandate, a Christlike manifestation, a Christlike mission and a Christlike ministry.

Philippians 2:1-4 - A Christlike mandate

In these first 4 verses, Paul tells believers they must follow Jesus' example of unity, love, and humility. Let's dive a bit deeper into that.



For today's discussion questions, remember to consider the context, highlight any keywords you notice, and feel free to share any Scripture that relates to this (see Appendix C if needed). This will work best if everyone contributes, so strive to give each other opportunities to share. To finish on time, keep discussion to 4 minutes per question (if you're able to go longer, you can).

A Spirit-led community - read Philippians 2:1-2.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

A selfless command - read Philippians 2:3-4.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Philippians 2:5-11 - A Christlike manifestation

This passage describes Jesus as the supreme example of humility, sacrifice, and selfless service. Paul encourages Christians to live Christlike lives by appealing to Christ's example (see more on the Deity of Christ in Appendix E).

Our solemn edict - read Philippians 2:5.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Our supernatural example - read Philippians 2:6-8.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)





Todd Bolen, bibleplaces.com

Interesting Fact: Philippi was a Roman colony where everyone was constantly trying to prove their superiority over each other.¹ The Augustus inscription pictured here was prominently displayed for all to see. In this inscription, Augustus, a mere man, attempted to convince the Philippians of his deity. Paul tells these same Philippians that Jesus, who was

God, humbled Himself and became a man to die for our sins. They would have been astonished by the contrast.

Important term: The Greek verb ταπεινῶω (translated in 2:8 as “humbled,” Strong’s 5013, tap-i-no'-o) describes the low position Jesus willingly took through his death on the cross. Jesus’ deity (v. 6) makes this voluntary humility even more shocking. Find out more about this important term in Appendix A.

Our Savior exalted - read Philippians 2:9-11.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Philippians 2:12-18 - A Christlike mission

In these next verses, Paul reminds believers that having been saved, they should now walk out that salvation, demonstrating Christlikeness in their community.

Compliant submission - read Philippians 2:12-13.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)



Continually shining - read Philippians 2:14-16.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Collective satisfaction - read Philippians 2:17-18.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Philippians 2:19-30 - A Christlike ministry

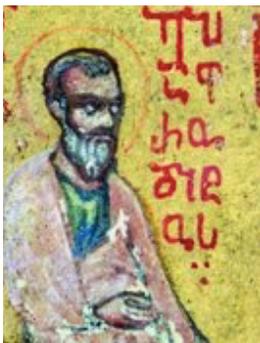
Here, Paul writes about two of his co-workers, Timothy and Epaphroditus. Consider their examples of Christlikeness as you discuss the next questions.

Living for Christ - read Philippians 2:19-24.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Loving fellow Christians - read Philippians 2:25-30.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)



Character profile: Epaphroditus (ee-paf-ro-DAI-tuhs). Epaphroditus was sent by the Philippian church to bring support to Paul and to care for his needs. Paul called him a brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier (Philippians 2:25). He had risked his life and almost died for the work of Christ (Philippians 2:30). Epaphroditus' example of Christlikeness and ministry should inspire us all.

Essential truth: The world often praises individualism and power. Philippians 2 highlights something very different, serving each other in unity. Just like Paul needed other believers, like Timothy and Epaphroditus, we also need to grow in fellowship, learning to serve others in unity, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Interpretation

Considering what we read today and all the different observations that surfaced, what core truths can we take away from this passage? Feel free to share any Scripture that might add clarity.

Application

How can we apply these core truths in our lives? Be specific.

Conclusion

In Philippians 2, we learned about a Christlike mandate, a Christlike manifestation, a Christlike mission, and a Christlike ministry. Paul reminded us to follow Christ's example, shining brightly for Jesus in a dark world. We can't do these things on our own, but His Word and His Spirit are sufficient for this task!

We can shine brightly for Jesus today just like the Philippians did in their context. A great way to do that is to tell others about the hope you have



in Christ. Your One Minute Witness (Appendix D) is a wonderful tool for that!

Please take some time to read and study Philippians 3 this week in preparation for next week's Bible study. You can even get a head start by noting your observations in the next chapter so you'll be ready to discuss them next week.

Close in prayer!

Please list any prayer requests that participants share below. Always keep sensitive prayer requests confidential. Pray for these needs throughout the week.

¹ Hellerman, Embracing Shared Ministry, Kregel, 2013.



Week 4 - Philippians 3: Confidence.

Welcome everyone! Let's pray to start things off!

Communion! Communion helps us recognize, acknowledge, and give thanks for the suffering Christ endured on our behalf. It is a great reminder of the brutal beauty of the cross. If you have trusted in Christ as Savior and Lord, you can take communion. Take a minute in personal contemplation and prayer (1 Cor. 11:28). Quietly ask God's forgiveness for anything that comes to mind. Then, get some bread and juice but wait before eating and drinking.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-24. After reading, pray and thank Jesus for giving His body for us on that cross. Then, together, eat the bread.

Next, read 1 Corinthians 11:25. After reading, pray and thank Jesus for shedding His blood for our sins. Then, together, drink the juice.

Video: Get the week 4 video at greatcommissionalliance.org/philippians

In John 11:25, Jesus claimed "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." Jesus backed that statement up with His own resurrection. In Philippians 3, Paul describes a yearning to better understand the power of Christ's resurrection and a refusal to place his confidence in anything other than what Jesus had done for him.

This week's key verse: Philippians 3:8 - What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.



Confidence

Paul didn't base his self-worth or salvation in his accomplishments or accolades. He placed his confidence solely in Christ. Today we'll look at counterfeit confidence, Christ confidence, and continuing confidence.

Philippians 3:1-7 - Counterfeit confidence

Paul starts this chapter, pointing out the heresy of the false teachers who sought to earn God's favor through works. Paul was adamant that this wouldn't work. He reminds believers not to place their confidence in themselves!

For today's discussion questions, remember to consider the context, highlight any keywords you notice, and feel free to share any Scripture that relates to this (see Appendix C if needed). This will work best if everyone contributes, so strive to give each other opportunities to share. To finish on time, keep discussion to 4 minutes per question (if you're able to go longer, you can).

Rejoicing in our Savior - read Philippians 3:1.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Important Term: In contrast with the "dogs" in verse 2, Paul makes clear that believers should put no confidence in the "flesh" (Greek σὰρξ, Strong's 4561, sarx). Sarx is an important term in the New Testament, and is used in several ways, so the task of the interpreter is to determine its meaning in this context. A key observation is that placing confidence in the flesh is contrasted with placing confidence in Christ. Read more about this important term in Appendix A.



Interesting Fact: In this passage, Paul refers to false teachers as “dogs” and “mutilators.” These deceivers were telling people salvation came through obeying the Old Testament laws. Paul refers to their highly regarded customs and traditions (which he also once considered essential) as being utterly worthless in comparison to the infinite value of knowing Jesus. He describes their religious works as “garbage,” using a Greek word that is only found here in all the New Testament. It referred to the excrement and refuse that was thrown to dogs to forage through and it was so harsh it could have been seen as a vulgarity. Our works pale in comparison to what Christ has already done for us.

Relying on the Spirit - read Philippians 3:2-3.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Rejecting self-sufficiency - read Philippians 3:4-7.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Philippians 3:8-14 - Christ confidence

Paul began chapter 3 telling believers not to place their confidence in their own merits. Now, he encourages them that only Christ is worth their trust!

A personal relationship - read Philippians 3:8.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)



A promised righteousness - read Philippians 3:9.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

A powerful reality - read Philippians 3:10-11.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

A pressing resolution - read Philippians 3:12-14.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Philippians 3:15-21 - Continuing confidence

Paul concludes this chapter reminding believers to hold on to these truths and to keep their confidence in Christ, His salvation, and His sovereignty.

Commitment in our endurance - read Philippians 3:15-16.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Consideration for our examples - read Philippians 3:17.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)



Concern for our enemies - read Philippians 3:18-19.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Convinced of our eternity - read Philippians 3:20-21.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Essential truth: God says that you are fearfully and wonderfully made and that your salvation is a gift you receive through faith alone. If you have trusted in Christ as Savior and Lord, your identity, worth, and salvation are guaranteed in Jesus. This is your confidence regardless of how you might feel.

Interpretation

Considering what we read today and all the different observations that surfaced, what core truths can we take away from this passage? Feel free to share any Scripture that might add clarity.

Application

How can we apply these core truths in our lives? Be specific.



Conclusion

Christ accomplished for us what we never could on our own. Nothing but Jesus deserves our confidence. Trust and rely on Him and Him alone.

Philippians 3:4-11 is a version of Paul's testimony (see other examples in Acts 22:3-21, 26:2-23, etc.). You can follow his example by sharing your One Minute Witness (Appendix D)! It is a great way of helping others find hope in Jesus.

Please take some time to read and study Philippians 4 this week in preparation for next week's Bible study. You can even get a head start by noting your observations in the next chapter so you'll be ready to discuss them next week.

Close in prayer!

Please list any prayer requests that participants share below. Always keep sensitive prayer requests confidential. Pray for these needs throughout the week.



Week 5 - Philippians 4: Contentment.

Welcome everyone! Let's pray to start things off!

Joyful memories! Divide into 2 to 3 teams and make sure at least a couple people in each team have a phone with pictures they have taken. After everyone has divided up, the facilitator will list 4 fun, memorable, or happy themes, one at a time. Have everyone race to be the first to show a picture representing that theme on their camera roll. The team with the most wins gets candy bars!

Video: Get the week 5 video at greatcommissionalliance.org/philippians

No matter our circumstances, we can have unshakable joy and peace in Christ. Jesus reminds us, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." We'll learn a lot about true contentment in today's chapter.

This week's key verse: Philippians 4:4 (ESV) - Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Contentment

Paul was in prison and the Philippians were experiencing various difficulties but the topics of joy and rejoicing still come up in every chapter of this book and are mentioned 16 times! Jesus was Paul's ultimate source of contentment and, through Christ, he had unshakable joy, regardless of his circumstances. We can too. No matter what we're going through, we can rejoice in Jesus! Today we'll review contentment in our friendships, fears, frustrations, and fellowship.



Philippians 4:1-5 - Contentment in our friendships

In these first five verses, Paul describes the joy he has because of the Philippian believers and he pleads with them to live in harmony together.

For today's discussion questions, remember to consider the context, highlight any keywords you notice, and feel free to share any Scripture that relates to this (see Appendix C if needed). This will work best if everyone contributes, so strive to give each other opportunities to share. To finish on time, keep discussion to 4 minutes per question (if you're able to go longer, you can).

Godly resolve - read Philippians 4:1.

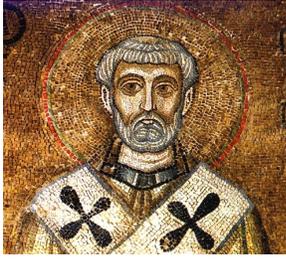
Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Character profiles: Euodia (yoo-O-dee-uh) and Syntyche (SIHN-tih-tshee). These women had worked with Paul and were influential members of the Philippian church (4:2-3). Their disagreement was obviously impeding the gospel-focused unity of the church (Philippians 1:27). For that reason, Paul asked his "true companion," likely Epaphroditus, to mediate between them so their disagreement would not hinder the church's Great Commission work.

Genuine reconciliation - read Philippians 4:2-3.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)





Character profile: Clement (KLEHM-ehNT). That passage also mentioned (4:3). Scholars believe this is the same Clement who went on to lead the church in Rome after the martyrdoms of Peter and Paul. Although not a part of the Bible, his first century letter to the Corinthian church, First Clement, is a cherished Christian text. Other literature associated with him probably isn't authentic. Like so many other Christians from this time period, Clement was eventually martyred for his faith in Christ, but he ministered faithfully until the very end.

Important term: Paul employs the Greek verb χαίρω (translated here "rejoice," Strong's 5463, khah'-ee-ro) as a command: "Rejoice!" Joy and rejoicing are key themes in Philippians, and stand out especially against the negative circumstances in which believers are called to remain joyful. Find out more about this important term in Appendix A.

Great rejoicing - read Philippians 4:4.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Gentle relationships - read Philippians 4:5.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Philippians 4:6-9 - Contentment in our fears

In these verses, Paul assures believers that the peace of God is available regardless of any anxiety or fear. We can experience that through prayer. He also reminds us to focus on things that will encourage us rather than discourage us.



An irrefutable peace - read Philippians 4:6-7.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

An intentional perspective - read Philippians 4:8-9.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Philippians 4:10-20 - Contentment in our frustrations

Paul was familiar with difficult circumstances. He often experienced extreme hardship and need. Remember what we learned about him in chapter 1. In these next verses, he reiterates Christ's sufficiency and the truth that believers can be joyful and content, even in times of difficulty and need.

Essential truth: In Philippians 4:13, Paul describes an essential truth: Christ gives us the strength to joyfully endure whatever circumstances might come for His purposes. Whatever you're struggling with right now, Jesus' grace is sufficient and He desires to be glorified in your weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).

Genuine gladness - read Philippians 4:10-13.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)





Interesting Fact: Here's a picture of the place Paul was accused in Corinth (Acts 18:12-16). While Paul was ministering in Corinth, the fledgling Philippian church was already supporting him (Acts 18:5). The Philippians had partnered with Paul in his ministry and he was very thankful

for that. Today, we have an opportunity to support Christian workers across the globe as well.

Generous giving - read Philippians 4:14-18.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

God's guarantee - read Philippians 4:19-20.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Philippians 4:21-23 - Contentment in our fellowship

In these last verses, Paul wraps up Philippians with a few final words to his dear friends. And, like he typically does, he reminds them of God's grace.

Joyful greetings - read Philippians 4:21-22.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)



Jesus' grace - read Philippians 4:23.

Q: What biblical observations do you notice in this passage? (~4 min.)

Interpretation

Considering what we read today and all the different observations that surfaced, what core truths can we take away from this passage? Feel free to share any Scripture that might add clarity.

Application

How can we apply these core truths in our lives? Be specific.

Conclusion

In Christ, we can be truly content no matter our circumstances. We can experience His contentment in our friendships, fears, frustrations, and fellowship. Always hold on to this truth, regardless of your circumstances.

In Philippians 4:3, Paul talks about contending together for the cause of the gospel. The cause of the gospel should motivate us today just as it did Paul, his team members, and the Philippian church. Each of us can share the gospel by telling others our testimony (Appendix D).



Close in prayer!

Please list any prayer requests that participants share below. Always keep sensitive prayer requests confidential. Pray for these needs throughout the week.



Week 6 - United in the Great Commission.

Welcome everyone! Let's pray to start things off!

Stand in unity! Thank you so much for persevering till the end! In Philippians, Paul emphasized standing together for the faith of the gospel. As a small illustration of this, we're going to stand together for a group picture. Please post this to your social media with a short description of what you learned in the class. Include a link so others can get this Bible study resource too.

Video: Get the week 6 video at greatcommissionalliance.org/philippians

Paul took Jesus' Great Commission, the command to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19), very, very seriously. That was evident in his ministry in Philippi and his letter to the Philippian believers. Paul was driven in life and ministry to know, love, follow, and proclaim Christ.

This week's key verse: Philippians 3:14 - I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

United in the Great Commission

We've finished Philippians! In today's session, we're going to spend some time reviewing a little of what we learned.

For today's discussion questions, remember what we've learned and try to keep your answers biblically based. Definitely share any Scripture that relates to today's topics of discussion. This will work best if everyone contributes, so strive to give each other opportunities to share. There are fewer questions this week so we have a little more time for each one. Try



to keep discussion times to about 10 minutes per question (if you're able to go longer, you can).

Philippians 1

In Philippians 1, our focus was collaboration. Our outline included collaboration in Christ, collaboration in our calling, and collaboration in our conduct. Our key verse was Philippians 1:27, where Paul encouraged believers to strive together as one for the faith of the gospel.

Q: How can we strive together as one for the faith of the gospel today? Be specific and discuss for about 10 min.

Philippians 2

In Philippians 2, our theme was Christlikeness. We discussed a Christlike mandate, a Christlike manifestation, a Christlike mission, and a Christlike ministry. Our key verse was Philippians 2:8, which described Christ's example of humility. Paul challenged the Philippians to follow Christ's example, reflecting Him and shining like stars in their community.

Q: How can we reflect Christ in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and communities? Be specific and discuss for about 10 min.

Philippians 3

In Philippians 3, our subject was confidence. We looked at counterfeit confidence, Christ confidence, and continuing confidence. Our key verse was Philippians 3:8. Paul considered his greatest accolades and achievements like garbage compared to Christ. He placed his confidence solely in Christ!



Q: What things do we incorrectly place our confidence in and how can we switch that to Christ alone? Be specific and discuss for about 10 min.

Interesting Fact: Lydia McGrew describes a fascinating “coincidence.” Most believers are familiar with Paul’s Jewish name Saul, something recorded more than 30 times in Acts. Although Philippians doesn’t reference his Jewish name, it does record his tribe, the tribe of Benjamin (Philippians 3:5). The first king of Israel was also named Saul and he too was from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Samuel 9). Even though King Saul made some serious blunders, his prominent place in the history of Israel would have provided the impetus for Benjamite families to name their sons Saul. This coincidence is an example of an undesigned coincidence that corroborates the accounts in both Acts and Philippians.¹ Find many more exciting coincidences like this one in Dr. McGrew’s book *Hidden In Plain View: Undesigned Coincidences in the Gospels and Acts*.

Philippians 4

In Philippians 4, we considered contentment. Our key verse, Philippians 4:4, reminded us to rejoice in the Lord always! The main points in this chapter were contentment in our friendships, fears, frustrations, and fellowship. Paul was content in Christ, regardless of his circumstances. We can be too.

Q: How have you learned to be content in difficult situations in your life? Be specific and discuss for about 10 min.



Important term: In Philippians 4:11, Paul uses the Greek adjective αὐτάρκης (translated as “content,” Strong’s G842, ow-tar'-kace) to describe his contentment in Christ regardless of his situation. The definition of this word implied sufficiency and satisfaction in any kind of circumstances. Find out more about this important term in Appendix A.

Application

Throughout Philippians we saw a recurring theme of the importance of the gospel. For that reason, we made sure to include weekly reminders to be sharing your testimony (remember Appendix D). This is a great way to help people you encounter experience the life-changing hope of the gospel! As we wrap up with this Bible study, try to schedule a couple of hours together as a small group to go out and share the gospel using the One Minute Witness. Go ahead and plan a time now.

Conclusion

Paul loved Jesus and he desired to be as close to Him as possible. In Philippians 1:23-26, Paul said that he’d rather die and be with his Savior, but desired to go on living because his heart broke for the things that Jesus’ heart breaks for. He felt compelled to point others towards Jesus. In Philippians 2:6-11, Paul expressed his praise and devotion to Christ. In Philippians 3:7-11, Paul made it clear that he would give up anything and everything simply to be closer to Christ. In Philippians 4:12-13, Paul showed that no matter how bad life got, he had no needs or worries because Jesus was right there with him.

Jesus desires to be our closest friend just like he was with Paul. The Creator of the universe desires to walk through life beside us! Don’t let anything keep you from experiencing Christ each and every day. This might be the end of our Philippians study, but it’s an opportunity to dive



deeper in our walks with Christ through reading the Bible, praying, and continuing in Biblical and Spirit-filled fellowship.

On that note, please check out some of our other resource in the back of this book and start planning a time to regroup for your next Bible study! If you liked this one, we encourage you to do another GCA Bible study right away!

Close in prayer!

Please list any prayer requests that participants share below. Always keep sensitive prayer requests confidential. Pray for these needs throughout the week.

¹ McGrew, *Hidden In Plain View: Undesigned Coincidences in the Gospels and Acts*, 2017.



Appendices



Appendix A - Important Terms

Week 1: δοῦλος (Philippians 1:1)

Paul frequently refers to himself as a “servant” (Greek δοῦλος, Strong's 1401, doo'-los) of Christ. However, the force of the term may be blunted with the translation “servant.” The term can also be translated as “slave,” which Paul uses in a positive sense in Philippians 1:1.

Week 2: εὐαγγελίου (Philippians 1:27)

The word “gospel” comes from the Greek word εὐαγγελίου (Strong's G2098, yū-än-ge'-le-on). It literally means “good news” and it refers to the good news of salvation in Jesus! As you read about Paul’s gospel commitment, reflect on how the gospel has changed you.

In this context, εὐαγγέλιον refers to the proclamation of the gospel (i.e., good news). In 1:27, the believer’s manner of life must be restricted to only that which is worthy of this good news.

Week 3: ταπεινῶ (Philippians 2:8)

The Greek verb ταπεινῶ (translated in 2:8 as “humbled,” Strong's 5013, tap-i-no'-o) describes the low position Jesus willingly took through his death on the cross. Jesus’ deity (v. 6) makes this voluntary humility all the more shocking.

Week 4: σὰρξ (Philippians 3:2)

In contrast with the “dogs” in Philippians 3:2, Paul makes clear that believers should put no confidence in the “flesh” (Greek σὰρξ, Strong's 4561, sarx). Sarx is an important term in the New Testament, and is used in several ways, so the task of the interpreter is to determine its meaning



in this context. A key observation is that placing confidence in the flesh is contrasted with placing confidence in Christ.

Week 5: χαίρω (Philippians 4:4)

Paul employs the Greek verb χαίρω (translated here “rejoice,” Strong’s 5463, khah'-ee-ro) as a command: “Rejoice!” Joy and rejoicing are key themes in Philippians, and stand out especially against the negative circumstances in which believers are called to remain joyful.

Week 6: αὐτάρκης (Philippians 4:11)

In Philippians 4:11, Paul uses the Greek adjective αὐτάρκης (translated as “content,” Strong’s G842, ow-tar'-kace) to describe his contentment in Christ regardless of his situation. The definition of this word implied sufficiency and satisfaction in any kind of circumstances.



Appendix B - The Gospel

God loves you so much.

Jesus says, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16 NLT). And, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10 ESV).

Unfortunately, your sin separates you from God.

Jesus tells us, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin" (John 8:34 ESV). He warns that sinners "will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:46 ESV).

Jesus is your only hope.

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6 ESV).

If you believe in Him as Savior and Lord you will be saved.

Jesus promises, "everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day" (John 6:40, NIV).

Will you say "yes" to Jesus?

You can receive Christ and His forgiveness for your sins right now by putting your faith and trust in Him and inviting Him to take control of your life through prayer. A prayer alone won't save you, but God will honor your faith and a simple prayer expressing that (Luke 18:13-14 and



23:42-43). If you are ready to trust in Christ as Savior and Lord, you can pray a prayer like this:

Jesus, I know I am a sinner and that my sins and selfishness keep me from you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins and rising again to give me new life. I surrender myself to you. Please forgive me, come into my life, give me a new life and be my Savior and Lord. Thank you.

If you took that step today, sign and date below and let your small group know!

Signed: _____ date: ____/____/____



Appendix C - The Inductive Bible Study Method

First, ask God to give you wisdom and to guide you. God will give you wisdom when you ask (James 1:5) and His Holy Spirit will shed light on His Word for you (1 Corinthians 2:12).

Observation.

Consider the big picture. Ask who, what, when, where, why, and how questions. Who was this written to? What was the setting? What was being addressed? What is the context of the passage? What are some of the key elements of the passage? Are there key words that come up throughout this passage? Are there key people? Are there any contrasts or comparisons being made? Try to outline as many key observations as you can about the passage before moving on. Resources like studylight.org and blueletterbible.org are helpful online tools.

Interpretation.

What is the core meaning of this passage? Consider the big picture observations you just made. Look at the rest of scripture. You might do a word search to see what other verses have to say about what you're studying. You can always use Scripture to interpret Scripture. You can check the cross-references included right in your Bible or use a concordance or online website (like biblegateway.com or blueletterBible.com). Checking other references is especially important when interpreting Old Testament passages; consider the New Testament context. Check to see if the Old Testament passage you're reading is mentioned in the New Testament. Look at the meanings of the words that are used. After all of this, try to ascertain the core meaning of the passage. You might check commentaries that are included with resources



like studylight.org and blueletterbible.org to see if you're on the right track.

Application.

Finally, remember James 1:22 and ask God to give you wisdom about how He would have you apply what you have learned.



Appendix D - The One Minute Witness

We hope you will share your faith often. This Oasis World Ministries One Minute Witness worksheet will help you prepare for that.

Permission. Simply walk up to someone and ask, "May I ask you a question?" If they say yes, ask, "What is the best thing that has ever happened to you?" Listen, smile, ask a few follow up questions, and then ask, "May I share the best thing that has ever happened to me?" If they say, "yes," continue.

B.C. - Describe your life before Christ. Finish this sentence with three words that describe who you were before Christ: "There was a time in my life when _____, _____, and _____ defined me."

T.P. - What was your turning point?

How did you hear about Jesus? Summarize the Gospel (God's love, your sin, Jesus' payment, and your decision) and how you responded to it. Finish this sentence: "and then one day..."

Conclude your T.P. by finishing this: "When I realized Jesus died for my sins and rose again, I invited Him to..."

A.D. - Describe your life after trusting Christ. Finish this sentence with three positive benefits you have experienced; use antonyms of the previous three: "Since I met Jesus _____, _____, and _____..."



If I had never met Jesus. Consider what your life would look like without Jesus and then finish this: "If I had never met Jesus ... but because of Him..."

Now, practice saying it all together until it feels natural. Our short One Minute Witness video training will help (get it at [youtube.com/watch?v=dwc1CDOOSWc&t=59s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwc1CDOOSWc&t=59s)). After you share your testimony, ask someone if they would like to put their trust in Jesus. Ask them if they are ready to A) Admit they are a sinner and need a Savior, B) Believe Jesus died for their sins and rose again, and C) Confess Jesus alone as Savior and Lord. If so, lead them in a prayer of faith.

Get more info at oneminutewitness.org.



Appendix E - The Deity of Christ

The Bible describes one God as a Trinity of three, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19). This single Divine plurality is seen throughout Scripture, starting in the Bible's very first chapter (Gen. 1:2, 26-27). The Trinity can seem confusing but that doesn't make it wrong.

Here's an analogy that might help. Imagine a single room. That one room has three essential parts, height, length, and width. If you take any of those three away, you're left with something fundamentally different. Remove height and all you'll have is a floor. Remove length or width and all you'll have is a wall. Only when all three parts are present can you have one room. It is the same with the Trinity. The one true God only exists as a perfect unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The deity of Christ is a foundational doctrine of Christianity. Here are seven reasons why we know Jesus is God: 1) divine passages, 2) divine power, 3) divine praise, 4) divine properties, 5) divine prophecies, 6) divine pronouncements, and 7) divine phrasing.

Divine passages. Many passages clearly describe the deity of Christ.

Matt. 1:23 calls Jesus "God with us."

Jn. 1:1 says that since the beginning, Jesus has been both God and with God.

In Jn. 8:58, Jesus claimed to be "I am," a name for God found in Ex. 3:14.

In Jn. 20:28, Jesus is called Lord and God.

Acts 20:28 says God bought the church with His own blood.

Phil. 2:6 tells us Jesus is God in His own nature.

Col. 1:15 calls Jesus "the image of God."

Col. 2:9 says the fullness of God lives in Jesus in bodily form.

Titus 2:13 calls Jesus "our God and Savior."

In Hebrews 1:8, God the Father calls the Son Jesus "God."



2 Peter 1:1 calls Jesus “our God and Savior.”

Divine power. Jesus said and did things everyone understood only God could. Here are a couple examples.

God is the one who forgives sins (Ps. 79:9) but Jesus openly claimed to have the power to forgive sins (Mark 2:5), something the religious leaders recognized as a claim of deity (Mark 2:7).

God is the author of life (Gen. 1-2, Dt. 32:39) but Jesus demonstrated power over death (Luke 8:53-55, John 11:43-44).

Divine praise: Jesus was worshipped.

God’s people had been commanded to worship God alone (Ex. 34:14), but Jesus was often worshipped and accepted it (Mat. 2:11, 14:33, 28:9, 17, Luke 24:52, Jn. 9:38, Heb. 1:6).

Divine properties. Both God and Jesus are described with identical divine statements. Here are a few examples:

God is the Creator (Gen. 1:1) and Jesus is as well (John 1:3, Col. 1:16-18).

Every knee will bow and tongue confess to God (Is. 45:23) and to Jesus also (Phil. 2:5-11).

God is called the Alpha and the Omega (Rev 1:8) and Jesus is too (Rev. 22:13).

God is often referred to as Savior (ex. 1 Chr. 16:35, Ps. 18:46, Is. 43:11, 1 Tim. 2:3, Jude 1:25) and so is Jesus (Philippians 3:20). Titus 3:4-6 includes both!

Hebrews 3:3-4 describes Jesus and God synonymously as the ultimate builder.



Divine prophecies. There are certain prophetic passages about God that were fulfilled in Jesus. Here are a couple examples.

Zechariah 11:12-13 describes God's betrayal for 30 pieces of silver which are thrown to the potter. Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15, 27:3, 9) and those were used to buy a potter's field (Matt. 27:7, 10).

Zechariah 12:10 describes God being pierced for his people, something prophesied of Jesus (Is. 53:5) and fulfilled at the cross (John 19:34-37).

Divine pronouncements. Jesus described Himself in ways people recognized as claims to deity.

God ordained the Sabbath (Ex. 20:8-11) but Jesus called Himself the Lord of the Sabbath (Mk. 2:28).

Jesus called Himself the Son of God, a title that implied deity. In the ancient world, one's social class was based in large part on the family they were born into. Jesus didn't begin to exist when He came to this earth but he was born as a son here on earth and He came from God, making him the Son of God. When Jesus called God His Father, people recognized that as claiming equality with God (Jn. 5:18).

Jesus used "the Son of man" to refer to Himself more than any other title. This Old Testament term described the worshipped judge of the earth with eternal dominion (Dan. 7:13-14). Caiaphas, the high priest, understood that Jesus' use of this was a claim to deity and he thought it was blasphemy (Matt. 26:62-65).

Divine phrasing: The Greek word κύριος (kurios) for "Lord."

Every time New Testament writers quote Old Testament passages that have the Hebrew name for God (YHWH) they translate it as κύριος



(Kurios, meaning Lord) in Greek. One example is Paul's quotation of Ps. 32:1-2 in Rom. 4:7-8. The ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, the Septuagint, did the same thing. The New Testament writers used this same word for Jesus hundreds of times. For example, Paul does this in Rom. 10:9, just a few chapters after he used this word in reference to God (Rom. 4:7-8).

Summary

When Jesus came to this earth, He took on our humanity, living on this earth at a specific time in history, with human limitations (Philippians 2:6-11). He made statements during this time, like the one in Jn. 14:28, within that context. But, after His ministry on earth was completed, He was glorified again with the glory that was His from all eternity (Jn. 17:5).

Scripture is clear, Jesus is God. This was just a quick review of some of the biblical evidence for the deity of Christ.



Appendix F - Bible Study Tools and Resources

Excellent Commentaries on Philippians

Cohick, Lynn, Philippians. The Story of God Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

Fee, Gordon D. Paul's Letter to the Philippians. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Biblical Interpretation

Klein, William W., Craig L. Blomberg and Robert L. Hubbard, Jr. Introduction to Biblical Interpretation. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017.

Carson, D. A. Exegetical Fallacies. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.



Appendix G - The Exponential Harvest

Prepare (Mark 4:2-3)

Abide with Christ (Jn. 15:5)
 Allow the Spirit to empower you
 (Eph. 5:18)
 Always start in prayer (1 Thes. 5:17)
 Accept the Great Commission call
 (Matt. 28:18-20).

Go (Mark 4:3)

Make a plan (Acts 17:2)
 Mobilize your resources
 (1 Cor. 10:31)
 Meet new people (Acts 1:8)
 Maximize each day (Ps. 96:2)

Multiply (Mark 4:8)

Dedicate resources
 (Matt. 25:14-30)
 Disciple key leaders
 (2 Tim. 2:2)
 Demonstrate Christ-like
 leadership (1 Cor. 11:1)
 Delegate Multiplication
 (Matt. 10, Lk. 10)

Tools: Exponential Harvest,
 Great Commission Leadership,
 etc.

Small group type: Great
 Commission groups

Plant (Mark 4:4-8)

Treasure Jesus (Mat. 12:34 B)
 Take the initiative (Col. 4:5-6)
 Transition conversations
 (Jn. 4:4-26)
 Tell people the Gospel
 (Jn. 3:16)

Tools: Finding Jesus, One
 Minute Witness, etc.



Harvest (Mark 4:8)

Show that you care (Rom. 12:10)
 Standardize 4 contexts (Heb. 10:24-25)
 Search for FAITH Christians (2 Tim. 2:2)
 Stick with transferable tools
 (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Tools: One Year Discipleship, Following
 Jesus, etc.

Small group type: Growth groups

Water (Mark 4:5-6, 1 Cor. 3:6-9)

Continue praying (1 Tim. 2:1-4)
 Coordinate follow-up (1 Cor. 3:6)
 Carefully address objections
 (1 Peter 3:15)
 Clarify the Gospel (Col. 4:4)

Tools: The BEST FACTS, etc.

Small group type: Gospel groups



Appendix H - The GCA

The Great Commission Alliance exists to multiply Christlike multipliers until the Great Commission is completed. Our strategy involves mobilizing the church with Great Commission ministry, training, and resources.

Great Commission ministry

We are committed to practicing what we preach. We are personally committed to doing evangelism and discipleship and we have seen thousands trust Christ during outreach times across the globe.

Great Commission training

We have trained thousands of leaders across the globe in evangelism, discipleship, apologetics, ministry, and leadership fundamentals. We are continuing to train leaders all over the world.

Great Commission resources

Our team is constantly developing and refining resources like this one, to equip believers everywhere for Great Commission ministry.

We would be honored to have you join us in this work.

There are several exciting ways you can partner with us and the Lord in this ministry! You can do that by giving, going, and getting on your knees!

Giving. This ministry is supported through the generosity of people like you. Visit greatcommissionalliance.org/donate to support this work.



Going. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. We are always looking for new team members who will be willing to trust God and follow Him into a life of adventurous ministry. Contact us at greatcommissionalliance.org/contact if you would like to know more about what that could look like.

Getting on your knees. We are so thankful for those that pray for us! We'll put you on our newsletter list if you send us a message at greatcommissionalliance.org/contact.

Thank you for your interest in the GCA!

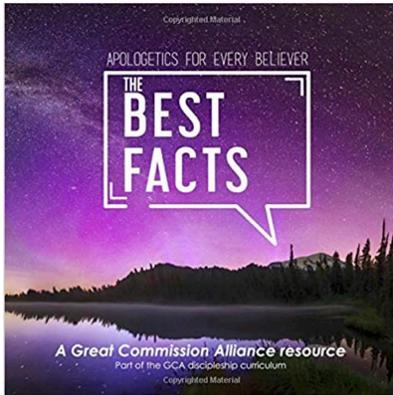


About the Authors



Chris and Michelle Kachuriak (third couple from left) helped with content and editing. So did Jesse Denison (center). Ben and Meghan Renfro (third couple from right) were instrumental in this. Ben helped with various aspects, including video sections. Meghan did all the design and layout. Philip Wilder (to the Renfro's right) helped with writing. Richard Godsil and Byjumon Vijayan Sarada (not pictured) were also involved with the writing. Finally, Nate (PhD) and Erin (MA) Herbst, far right, helped with writing as well. Nate was the primary author on this project.

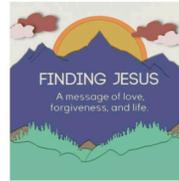
More GCA Resources



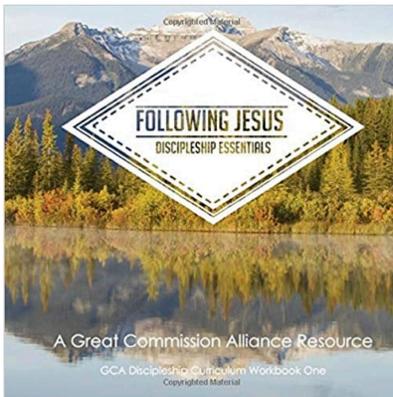
The BEST FACTS workbook is a coherent and understandable apologetics resource that is easy to learn and teach. It has been endorsed by Dr. Gary Habermas, a top apologist and the world's leading authority on the resurrection.



The BEST FACTS tract is a great resource for skeptics. It provides solid scientific, logical, and historical arguments.



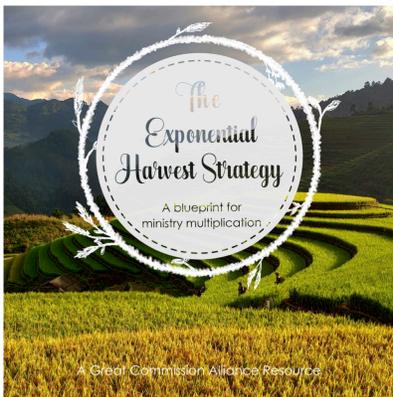
The Finding Jesus tract is a gospel tract that uses Jesus' direct quotes. This is a great resource for evangelism.



The Following Jesus workbook is a great tool for one-on-one discipleship or for Bible study growth groups. It covers the fundamentals of the Christian walk in a simple, biblical, relational way.



Every Day Impact is a 31-day devotional designed to encourage believers in personal evangelism. It will challenge and encourage you.



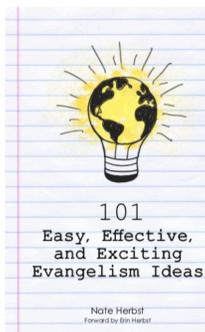
The Exponential Harvest training is the best ministry model you'll come across. It is based in Mark 4 and the parable of the sower and full of practical, time-tested ministry strategies. It is also designed to be easy to teach and multiply.



Great Commission Leadership is a 30-chapter, ministry training workbook. It focuses on a leader's character development and ministry skills.

One Year Discipleship!
 ✪ Transferable, multiplication tool.
 Info/copies: greatcommissionalliance.org/discipleship
 If you repeat this process each year, and train those you disciple to do so, the whole world could be reached in less than 40 years! God has given you everything you need to do this in His Word and through His Spirit (1 Peter 1:3, Ephesians 5:16).
Instructions: Keep your walk with God strong as you disciple others (John 15:16). Meet weekly (men with men, women with women, Titus 2:1-8). Follow each week's icon instructions. Start with prayer and conversation. Then, follow the outline in the tool. Ask good questions and give sufficient time to answer questions that come up. Always emphasize God's Word, the power of the Spirit, love, acceptance, grace, and freedom. Reiterate past principles covered. Before concluding, schedule the next meeting.
Study: Read the verses. Discuss observations about each passage (ask who, what, when, where, how, and why questions). Discuss the meaning (consider observations, the context of the passage, and other verses). Discuss how to apply the truth of each passage.
Apply: Do the suggested application idea. Begin and close in prayer. Make sure to debrief the application time.
Connect: Do something fun. Have a deep conversation about your walk with God (discuss struggles, victories, joys, needs, etc.). Encourage each other. Pray together.
Check: Check off the box after each appointment. Then, schedule when and where you'll meet next.
 Finish in a year! If you miss one or less appointments per month!
Substrate: John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 3:23, Galatians 3:27, 28, 29. Have you surrendered your life to Christ? If not, do that right now through prayer. If so, are you growing? Submission comes by grace, through faith, and not by works. Baptism is just a demonstration of that fact. (Matthew 28:19-20) If you haven't been baptized, discuss doing

The One Year Discipleship tool can be printed on one piece of paper, front and back. It has basic instructions and a one year template for biblical discipleship. It includes application and relationship building elements in addition to biblical fundamentals. It is transferable, fun, and easy to use! It is free in many languages at greatcommissionalliance.org/oyd.



101 Easy, Effective and Exciting Evangelism Ideas is a short little book with a ton of practical evangelism ideas. Read this book and you'll never be stuck wondering how to share your faith again. This is a fun and encouraging read.

