

## LESSON 2

Philippians 1:3-11



# THANKFUL FOR YOU

## OPEN IT

1. What is something or someone that you are most thankful for? What makes you so thankful for this person or thing?

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

**TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT**

Read Philippians 1:3-11

2. Why is Paul thankful for the church in Philippi?
3. What is Paul confident about in this passage?
4. Why does Paul say it's good for him to feel this way about the Philippians?
5. What is Paul's prayer for these Christians?

## Day 2

### The Fellowship of the Gospel

Read Philippians 1:5


Paul's thankfulness and joy for the church in Philippi are driven out of their partnership in the gospel. Literally, the word for their "partnership" in the gospel is their "fellowship" in the gospel. But what does that mean to have fellowship in the gospel? Paul wasn't simply thankful that they partnered with him in his ministry or that they partnered together in their own church for the sake of the gospel message. Instead, his joy and thankfulness was that in the greater mission of the church, the greater ministry of the gospel, this church had devoted themselves to the work of the gospel.

This work of the gospel is more than simply donating money towards it. The work of the gospel can be as general as what is mentioned in Acts 2:42: "*devotion to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*" So Paul's reference to their partnership in the gospel is their devotion to the teaching of the gospel, both in the church and to the lost who need to hear it. It was their commitment to care for and support those who are united through faith in Christ alone. It was their devotion to covering the saints in prayer and praising God with their lives.

What does your partnership in the gospel look like?

6. Fellowship is one of those words we use in church all the time but maybe don't really understand. How would you describe what fellowship is?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. In what ways can a high school or middle school student partner in the gospel? How are you currently partnering in the gospel? In what ways do you think God may be calling you to partner in the gospel in greater ways?

**I HAVE A QUESTION!**  Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

**PRAYER GUIDE**  Here are some things you could pray for today:

Lord, thank You for the gospel, the good news, that Jesus came and paid the price for my sins and has given me a new life. My desire is to partner in the work of the gospel even now. Show me how I can increase my partnership in the gospel. Amen.

## Day 3

### Hope and Memory

Read Philippians 1:3-4

Thankfulness and joy. Paul loved these people deeply because of their partnership in the gospel. After all, he was there when the church in Philippi was started; he started it himself! So he has known these Christians since they were “baby Christians” and has seen them grow up in the faith. How cool would that be? To help lead someone to Christ and then see them grow up in their faith in Jesus! That is a blessing that will bring a joy that can’t be shaken.

It can be hard sometimes to think of being thankful for other Christians. I’m sure there’s probably someone you can think of who you just have a hard time liking. It can be hard to find joy with other Christians as well. But that doesn’t mean that we can’t have an attitude of joy and thanksgiving towards each other. We can choose to be thankful for the people around us. We can choose to love each other despite some of the things that cause us frustration with each other and find unity in Jesus because He brings us all together despite our backgrounds, despite our issues in life. Jesus is the glue that holds us all together!

8. How can you be thankful for someone even when they offend or annoy you?
9. What does it say about Christians when we can’t find ways to get along with each other? What sort of reputation does that give the world about who we are?

**I HAVE A QUESTION!**  Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

**PRAYER GUIDE** ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

Jesus, there are times when it can be so hard to be thankful for other Christians around me. Little things can sometimes seem so big, and I know I can get frustrated with others around me. But I know that isn’t the attitude You would want me to have. Help me find ways to be thankful for Your Church even when my attitudes are bad, even when they have upset me. Help me find joy and thankfulness for other Christians and their partnership in the gospel. Amen.

## Day 4

### May It Be

Read Philippians 1:4, 9-11

Paul prays consistently for the people at this church in Philippi because of his deep love and affection for them. His prayer for them is two-fold:

1. **Thanking God for them.** Paul's prayer is a prayer of thankfulness to God. We've learned about this already in Paul's affections for this church. But Paul would find himself thanking God for these people on a regular basis. A friend of mine once said, "Take time to thank God for everything around you and you'll be surprised and how much joy it'll bring to your life." Paul thanked God for their support and for their partnership in the gospel work.
2. **Maturity in their faith.** Paul's desire was to see these people continue to grow in their faith. He wanted God to continue to grow their love for each other, their discernment and knowledge of the Lord so that they would know for certain what was good in the eyes of God. Paul understands that we should always be growing in our faith because in this life we will never fully know God and never fully become like God. There is always room for us to grow. It's important for us as believers to keep each other in our prayers and not just to pray for the problems we face in our lives but to pray for each other to continue to grow to maturity in Christ.

10. Why is it important for us to pray for each other as well as encourage and teach each other?

11. In what ways are you seeking to continue to grow in your maturity in Christ?

**I HAVE A QUESTION!**  Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

**PRAYER GUIDE** ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

Take time and ask God to help someone you know grow in their faith. Pray for our church and for your small group—that we would all continue to grow in our faith. Try to think of specific areas of growth to pray for.


## Day 5


### The Return of the King

Read Philippians 1:6, 10

12. How do you know if you are prepared for the day when Christ returns and you will meet God face to face?

13. How can you tell if you are growing in spiritual maturity? What is necessary for you to grow in Christ?

**I HAVE A QUESTION!**  Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

**PRAYER GUIDE**  Here are some things you could pray for today:

Lord, help me grow in my walk with you. Make me more like you each day. Amen.

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Note: This study guide was written by Pastors Tim Badal, Mario Arindaeng, and Jeremy Anderson, Village Bible Church. [www.villagebible.church](http://www.villagebible.church)