



Philippians Application Guide

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ACCELERATING
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TRANSLATION

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Introduction

Philippians 1:3-5 ULB

*3 I thank my God every time I remember you,
v4 always, in every prayer of mine for all of you, making my prayer with joy
v 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*

Scripture tells us what Scripture is good for and what it produces:

1. Knowing the Scriptures will help you to be wise and to understand the way of salvation.
2. Scripture teaches us how to live our lives.
3. Scripture gives us the measure of right and wrong.
4. The Christian who studies Scripture will be trained in godliness, will be shown how to live, will be taught how to have a relationship with God, and how to live with love toward others.
5. The Christian who studies the Word of God has everything needed to live for the glory of God.

The purpose of this guide is:

1. To provide a resource within the Christian community to gauge the effectiveness of Scripture in their lives.
2. To teach believers who can read the Scripture in their own language, new ways to study the Bible and apply it so they can experience the full measure of God's design for their life in him.
3. To provide the Christian community with a transferable, expandable, training guide to lead Christians to a deeper understanding and knowledge of the Bible.
4. To explain difficult words and ideas that are found in the Bible, such as doctrine, teaching, Law, practical living, help for in families, and in the local Church.
5. To help Christians discover ways of expressing love for God in worship that is built on the teaching of the Word of God.

The results of using this guide are:

1. The believing community will grow in their understanding of the Bible, and they will learn how to understand its message and to follow the instructions for Christian living and the worship of God.
2. Those in the churches will learn to serve and love other people as Christ has loved them.
3. Christians will experience growth, the disciplines of the Christian life (prayer, generosity, purity, and the like) as they live out their faith and as they grow in their trust in God.

The primary audience for this guide is:

1. Christians who want to understand the message of the Bible and who want to follow the teaching of the Bible, so that God is honored and that Christians grow in spiritual maturity.
2. Spiritual leaders in communities who have learned to teach the message of the Bible, and so by their teaching they would encourage spiritual growth in the Church and that would lead to spiritual maturity in those who worship and serve together in the local Church.

The expected outcome of this guide is:

1. Christians and those who are interested in the Christian faith will find a deeper understanding of the meaning of the Bible and they will be encouraged to apply the message of the Bible in their own lives.
2. Those who use it will understand and apply message of the Bible individually as they live their lives for God, and in the broader community of their neighbors, and especially with other Christians in the worshiping community.
3. Those who use it will gain confidence in their translation of Scripture and be bold to share it with others.
4. Those who use it will help others to understand and apply the Word of God to their lives.
5. Those who use it will be inspired and challenged to help other language groups to get Scripture in their own language.

This guide is designed to be:

1. The Philippians Application Guide is an additional resource that stands alongside and supports the teaching found in the Reviewers' Guide.
2. A series of questions based on the passages used in the Reviewers' Guide that ask the participants to apply what they are reading to their own experience and life.
3. A group or community process overseen by a team leader.

To use this guide, a group of Christians with new access to Scripture in their heart language could agree together to read and study the Bible together, and to discuss together the questions that are included in this study guide. One spiritual leader from a Christian church (a pastor, teacher, or leader, or perhaps one of the translators, etc.) should give leadership to the group so that the Applications Guide would be studied together in a group.

How to use this guide:

1. Scripture passages are listed before a series of questions. Read these passages in the newly translated Scripture.
2. The group leader will then ask the group the questions that follow the passages.
3. If possible (in places with high literacy) one person should be assigned to take notes on the answers to questions, especially any questions where individuals disagree or where an answer is unknown.
4. Work through the questions slowly--allow time for everyone to think about the passages and to answer if they choose.
5. At the end of each section of questions is a set of conclusion questions. The answers to these questions should be recorded whenever possible to be shared with a larger audience.

If you have any questions or comments about this guide, please email us at:
translation_services@wycliffeassociates.org

Philippians 1:1-11

1. If you had been in the Philippian church at this time, how would you have felt to hear what Paul had to say about you and the other Christians there?
 - a. (1:3-5) Have you known people who have helped you to grow in your faith and trust in God? Have you given thanks to God for them?
 - b. Do you have people in your life who you have encouraged and helped to grow in their faith (as Paul helped the Philippian Christians)?
2. What person or ministry could you join to help spread the Gospel in your area?
 - a. Can you tell other people in this study how you came to know Christ as your Savior? Who were the people that God used to bring you to Christ?
 - b. (1:7) Do you have people in your life that you could describe with the phrase “I have you in my heart,” as Paul described Timothy?
3. How do you know that God is continuing his work and you and that he will complete it?
4. (1:9) Do you feel like as you have grown in knowledge and understanding that your love has grown as well?
5. What are ways you could thank God and pray for other Christians in your life?
 - a. Using Paul’s example, how could you pray for your friends?
 - b. What does the expression “more and more” mean as a result of Paul’s prayers for them? (1:9)
6. What is the difference between the things that “are excellent” (1:10) and the things that are “not excellent”?
 - a. You might consider things that help you to live for God, and those things that make it more difficult for you to worship and serve God.
 - b. The purpose of things that are “excellent” is to help you be “sincere” and “blameless.” Can you explain what “excellent,” “sincere,” and “blameless” mean to you or to your church?

Philippians 1:12-26

1. What can you do when you hear about other Christians who are suffering or being persecuted because of their faith in Christ?
 - a. Notice that Paul mentions his imprisonment twice, 1:14 and 1:17. Do you know any Christian friends who have suffered or been imprisoned for their faith?
2. Do you think it is fair for God to allow his people to suffer? Why or why not?
 - a. How can suffering affect our faith in God?
 - b. What are some tragic or difficult results that suffering can cause?
 - c. What are some encouraging and helpful ways that suffering can be a blessing and help to the local church? (see 1:18)
3. What are some ways you could respond to suffering?
4. What are some good things you have experienced through suffering, or what good have you seen in other Christians as they suffered? (see 1:19)
5. In what ways can suffering bring good? (Suggestion: making faith stronger; calling on God for help; giving a reason for others to pray for you; and the like.)
6. Paul was confident that everything he was experiencing was for a purpose? What do you think is God's purpose for you in your situation right now? (see 1:20 "whether I live or die")
7. Have you experienced the power of praying for specific needs and seeing the answer that God gives because people have prayed for you, or because you prayed for other Christian friends?
8. In what ways can you be bolder in your faith so that others may glorify God?
9. Paul was willing to suffer for the sake of others (see 1:23-26). How could your sacrifice for others bring them blessings?
10. Paul desired to do whatever he could to help them grow in their faith. How could your prayers be the means of the spiritual growth of other people?
11. What have you experienced as a Christian that makes you confident that this statement is true: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."
12. Are your priorities the same as Paul's, who wanted God to be glorified, no matter what happened to himself?
 - a. What kind of changes could you make in your life to make God's glory your priority?
 - b. How do you bring glory to God in the relationships you have with other Christians?

Philippians 1:27-2:18

1. What does it mean to live a life worthy of the Gospel? What principles would guide a person who is living a life worthy of the Gospel?
2. In what ways could Christians be united when opposition breaks out against them?
 - a. How could opposition to Christians also put pressure on them to be divided?
 - b. How would you respond when there is disagreement about how would you respond to opponents?
 - c. How would you respond if people in your church started to oppose your church leaders and their instructions on how to live the Christian life?
3. What can Christians in your area do to promote unity in the church?
 - a. What are the signs of a united church? How can a church build unity?
 - b. What are some doctrines or affirmations of faith that must be agreed to if the church is to be a Christian church?
4. Some opponents tried to spoil the reputations of their leaders by spreading untrue statements about them, statements that disturbed the churches when they heard the charges. How can we protect the church from believing false statements that come from opponents of the Gospel?
5. Are there opponents to Christianity where you live? If so, what are ways that you and fellow Christians can remain strong and united in faith?
6. Are there opponents in your personal life now? If so, how could other Christians help you through your troubles?
7. How does the example of Christ in 2:5-8 inform how you should live your life? What can you do to be more like Christ?
8. What are challenges we face in this time that would make it difficult for Christians to become servants in the way that Christ was? (For example, family duties between husband and wife, duties toward children, toward the job you have, or responsibility to other family members.)
9. Paul told the Christians to obey whether he was with them or not.
 - a. Do you act differently based on whether a certain person is with you or not?
 - b. Why might you be tempted to not follow an order from your boss when he is away; or to be critical of a person who is not with you, but when they are with you to act as if you respect them?
10. How does the fear of God encourage you to obey him at all times?
11. Why do you think Christians fall into grumbling and complaining, when they are taught that they shouldn't do that?
12. How does the way you live your life provide an example of godly living to non-believers that you know? (Give examples of behaviors, actions and/or attitudes.)

Philippians 2:19-2:30

1. Paul wrote that he was sending Timothy to help the Philippians.
 - a. Who is like Timothy in your life and how have they been supportive and helpful to you?
 - b. What are some ways you could show that person that you appreciate him or her?
2. What can you do to welcome and show love to people who have suffered because they were serving Christ and doing what the Scriptures said for them to do?

Philippians 3:1-4:1

1. What were things in your life that you were once proud of, but now that you are a Christian they no longer have meaning to you?
2. What are some habits, attitudes, words, or relationships that you need to remove from your life because they are preventing you from growing closer to Christ or because they make it more difficult for you to obey his teaching?
3. Do you know a teacher or spiritual leader who claimed to be a Christian, but was teaching people to trust in something other than Christ alone?
 - a. If so, what did you do and how did you respond when you heard his teaching?
 - b. Did you speak to that person? Or warn others about his teaching?
4. What motivates you to continue growing as a Christian and to not go back to the old way of living (that life of sin, disobedience, and unholy behaviors) that you once lived before you became a Christian?
5. What are some distractions that keep you from focusing on heaven and cause you to be concerned about worldly things?
6. What difference should it make in a Christian's life to know with certainty that he or she is truly a citizen of heaven?
7. How would you explain to someone that you have "citizenship in heaven"? (For example, to have a home forever, in heaven, with God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.)
8. Why do temptations and pleasures of this world continue to be at work in our hearts and minds even though we are redeemed, forgiven, and accepted by God? (For example, we are forgiven of all our sins, but until we die, sin will continue to tempt us to do what we should not do.)
9. What can you do to help another believer when you notice that he or she is no longer standing firm in their faith? (For example, you could speak to him or her and seek to find what is making it difficult for him or her to stand firm in faith and obedience.)

Philippians 4:2-23

1. What can Christians do to help other Christians who are not able to agree with one another? (For example, Paul gave instruction that the women who were arguing to come together and agree with each other.)
2. What kind of things are you anxious about? What causes anxiety for you?
 - a. How does this anxiety affect you, and how does it affect your relationships with God?
 - b. What could other Christians do to help you receive peace from Christ?
3. Describe a time why you experienced the peace that passes all understanding?
4. In what ways does thinking about things that are good, lovely, and right help you in your daily life?
5. What kind of situations causes you to not be content? What can you do to have contentment in all situations?
6. Describe in what ways God has provided for your needs?
7. As a Christian, what brings you the most joy?

Conclusion

1. What do you understand better about God, yourself, and others from studying Philippians?
2. Can you list five ways you could apply the message of Philippians to your life?
3. When you pray, what can you thank God for from Philippians?
4. Based on Philippians, can you think of anything you need to repent of before God?
5. Can you find specific instructions that Paul gave to the Philippians, and apply them to your life? (For example, Philippians 1:27, "Conduct yourselves worthy of the gospel," Philippians 3:1 and 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord," and other instructions in this letter.)