

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN SIMPLIFIED ENGLISH

STUDY GUIDE

Philippians: A Choice to Rejoice

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Adult Bible Study in Simplified English Study Guide

Philippians: A Choice to Rejoice

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Philippians: A Choice to Rejoice

Introduction

Get ready to study the book of Philippians. Some people say Philippians is the happiest book in the Bible. You can decide for yourself after you study it!

This book is a letter to the Christians who lived in the city of Philippi in Greece. Paul started this church around the year 49 AD. It started as a small house church in the home of a woman named Lydia (see Acts 16:11-15, 40). Paul visited Philippi a few times during his mission trips. He had many friends in the Philippian church.

Paul wrote this letter to his friends for several reasons. He thanked them for their gifts. He told them of some things that happened to him in Rome. He wrote about choosing to work together in the church. He warned them against false teachers. Finally, he reminded them to choose joy even when their lives were less than joyful.

Paul knew what he was talking about because his life was hard. He wrote this letter to the Philippians while he was under arrest for preaching about Jesus. He was chained to a Roman soldier so he would not escape. Yet, Paul did not complain in his letter. He used the word *joy* nine times! Why did he have so

much joy? “I am happy, yes, and I will keep on being happy that Christ is preached” (Philippians 1:18).

Some of the most-loved verses of the Bible are found in Philippians. As you read through the verses in these 13 lessons, mark the verses you love most. Many of these verses will carry you through life’s hard times. Choose joy as you study Philippians!

About the Writers

Janet Roberts wrote Lessons 1-2. She has taught ESL since 1976. She trains teachers in Plano, Texas.

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Phyllis Merritt wrote lessons 12-13. She has taught ESL since 1970. She and her husband live in Waco, Texas.

Philippians: A Choice to Rejoice

Lesson Overview

Lesson 1	The Joy of Community	Philippians 1:1-11
Lesson 2	A Choice to Rejoice	Philippians 1:12-19
Lesson 3	A Win-Win Situation	Philippians 1:20-26
Lesson 4	Stand for Your Faith	Philippians 1:27-30
Lesson 5	United by God's Spirit	Philippians 2:1-4
Lesson 6	Follow Jesus' Example	Philippians 2:5-11
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Lesson 8	Sent to Serve	Philippians 2:19-30
Lesson 9	Lose to Win	Philippians 3:1-11
Lesson 10	Keep Going	Philippians 3:12-16
Lesson 11	Living for Jesus	Philippians 3:17-21
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Lesson 13	It Is Well With My Soul	Philippians 4:10-23

Philippians: A Choice to Rejoice

Word List

Lesson 1

community: a group of people who live in the same area or who have the same beliefs and interests; a feeling of caring about the other people in a group

explain: to say what something means

Lesson 2

brave: strong in heart and not showing fear

pandemic: a disease that spreads all over the world, making people sick with many dying

quarantined: staying alone in one place for a number of days or weeks to stop the spread of a disease

rejoice: to feel or show much happiness

Lesson 3

determined: having a strong feeling that you are going to do something and that you will not allow anyone or anything to stop you

outcome: something that happens as a result of an activity or process

situation: all of the facts, conditions, and events that affect someone or something at a certain time and in a certain place

Lesson 4

consistently: always acting in the same way

hypocrisy: actions that do not agree with

what someone says they believe

hypocrite: someone whose actions do not agree with what they say they believe

integrity: strength and firmness of someone's actions and words; complete truth and honesty

Lesson 5

conflicts: strong disagreements between people or groups that often result in angry arguments

humble: not proud; not thinking of yourself as better than other people

united: working together to achieve the same purpose or goal

pandemic: an event in which a disease spreads very quickly and affects a large number of people over a wide area or throughout the world

Lesson 6

attitude: a feeling or way of thinking that affects the way someone acts

authority: the ability or right to control people or things

stubborn: refusing to change your ideas or refusing to stop doing something; difficult to deal with or to control

Philippians: A Choice to Rejoice

Word List

Lesson 7

character: the way a person thinks, feels, and behaves; the qualities or characteristics that make a person who they are

mature: fully developed or formed; developed to a desired level

specific: special or particular; exact

tantrums: angry outbursts by a child or someone who is behaving like a child

Lesson 8

affirmed: said that something was true in a confident way

communicate: to get someone to understand your thoughts or feelings by talking, writing, or some other means

sacrifices: acts of giving up something you want to help someone else

prophet: one of the early preachers who spoke for God

Lesson 9

artificial: not natural or real; made or done to seem like something real, but still false

badge of honor: something worn to show that a person deserves respect

opinion: a belief, judgment, or way of thinking about something

substitute: a person or thing that takes the place of something else

Lesson 10

champion: someone who has won

compare: to look at two or more things closely in order to decide which one is better

unique: unlike anything or anyone else

Lesson 11

pattern: to try to be like something; to behave like a good example

perishing: those who are dying or being destroyed

standard: something that is good and that is used to determine the quality of other things

Lesson 12

book of life: the record of those who are right with God and will have life that lasts forever

Lesson 13

content: to feel peaceful happiness; to be pleased or satisfied with what one has

Philippians: A Choice to Rejoice

Word List in Alphabetical Order

These vocabulary words can found in the lesson listed in each definition; “L8” means Lesson 8.

affirmed: said that something was true in a confident way (L8)

artificial: not natural or real; made or done to seem like something real, but still false (L9)

attitude: a feeling or way of thinking that affects the way someone acts (L6)

authority: the ability or right to control people or things (L6)

badge of honor: something worn to show that a person deserves respect (L9)

book of life: the record of those who are right with God and will have life that lasts forever (L12)

brave: strong in heart and not showing fear (L2)

champion: someone who has won (L10)

character: the way a person thinks, feels, and behaves; the qualities or characteristics that make a person who they are (L7)

communicate: to get someone to understand your thoughts or feelings by talking, writing, or some other means (L8)

community: a group of people who live in the same area or who have the same beliefs and interests; a feeling of caring about the other people in a group (L1)

compare: to look at two or more things closely in order to decide which one is better (L10)

conflicts: strong disagreements between people or groups that often result in angry arguments (L5)

consistently: always acting in the same way (L4)

content: to feel peaceful happiness; to be pleased or satisfied with what one has (L13)

determined: having a strong feeling that you are going to do something and that you will not allow anyone or anything to stop you (L3)

explain: to say what something means (L1)

humble: not proud; not thinking of yourself as better than other people (L5)

hypocrisy: actions that do not agree with what someone says they believe (L4)

hypocrite: someone whose actions do not agree with what they say they believe (L4)

integrity: strength and firmness of someone's actions and words; complete truth and honesty (L4)

mature: fully developed or formed; developed to a desired level (L7)

opinion: a belief, judgment, or way of thinking about something (L9)

outcome: something that happens as a result of an activity or process (L3)

pandemic: a disease that spreads all over the world, making people sick with many dying (L2)

pandemic: an event in which a disease spreads very quickly and affects a large number of people over a wide area or throughout the world (L5)

pattern: to try to be like something; to behave like a good example (L11)

perishing: those who are dying or being destroyed (L11)

prophet: one of the early preachers who spoke for God (L8)

quarantined: staying alone in one place for a number of days or weeks to stop the spread of a disease (L2)

rejoice: to feel or show much happiness (L2)

sacrifices: acts of giving up something you want to help someone else (L8)

situation: all of the facts, conditions, and events that affect someone or something at a certain time and in a certain place (L3)

specific: special or particular; exact (L7)

standard: something that is good and that is used to determine the quality of other things (L11)

stubborn: refusing to change your ideas or refusing to stop doing something; difficult to deal with or to control (L6)

substitute: a person or thing that takes the place of something else (L9)

tantrums: angry outbursts by a child or someone who is behaving like a child (L7)

united: working together to achieve the same purpose or goal (L5)

unique: unlike anything or anyone else (L10)

Philippians: A Choice to Rejoice

Memory Verses

Lesson 1

"I always have joy as I pray for all of you."
(Philippians 1:4)

Lesson 2

"Because of your prayers and the help the Holy Spirit gives me, all of this will turn out for good." (Philippians 1:19)

Lesson 3

"Who can separate us from Christ's love? Can trouble or hard times or harm or hunger? Can nakedness or danger or war? ... No! In all these things we are more than winners! We owe it all to Christ, who has loved us." (Romans 8:35, 37 NIRV)

Lesson 4

"For this reason, we always pray for you. We pray that our God will make you worth being chosen. We pray that His power will help you do the good things you want to do. We pray that your work of faith will be complete."
(2 Thessalonians 1:11)

Lesson 5

"Nothing should be done because of pride or thinking about yourself. Think of other people as more important than yourself."
(Philippians 2:3)

Lesson 6

"The person who thinks he is important will find out how little he is worth. The person who is not trying to honor himself will be made important." (Matthew 23:12)

Lesson 7

"Do all things without arguing and talking about how you wish you did not have to do them." (Philippians 2:14)

Lesson 8

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom should I send? Who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"
(Isaiah 6:8)

Lesson 9

"So now, my Christian brothers, be happy because you belong to Christ." (Philippians 3:1a)

Lesson 10

"All these many people who have had faith in God are around us like a cloud. Let us put everything out of our lives that keeps us from doing what we should. Let us keep running in the race that God has planned for us."
(Hebrews 12:1)

Lesson 11

"If we live in the light as He is in the light, we share what we have in God with each other. And the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, makes our lives clean from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

Lesson 12

"Be full of joy always because you belong to the Lord. Again, I say, be full of joy!"
(Philippians 4:4)

Lesson 13

"... I have learned to be happy with whatever I have ... I can do all things because Christ gives me the strength." (Philippians 4:11b,13)