

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

PHILIPPIANS

Tom Holladay



drivetime
DEVOTIONS

PHILIPPIANS: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

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CONTENTS

ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES	4
HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE	6
A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN	7
WEEK ONE	10
WEEK TWO	13
WEEK THREE	16
WEEK FOUR	19
NEXT STEPS	22



ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Welcome to this special Drivetime Devotions Small Group Study. This four-week study on Philippians is designed so that you can enjoy Drivetime Devotions as a podcast throughout the week and then talk about it with your small group. This will allow for more time in your small group for discussion, application, and fellowship.

The purpose of Drivetime Devotions is to help you know God's Word and put it into practice. Here at Saddleback Church, we believe it's better to study small sections of God's Word each day instead of a larger section once a week. Studying the Bible is like eating—you'll be healthier if you eat small amounts each day rather than one big meal a week! All the episodes are designed to be listened to once per day, five days a week. In the event you miss a day or two, you can still stay on schedule.

In Drivetime Devotions, Pastor Tom Holladay teaches God's Word and helps you put it into practice. With over 30 million

downloads, Drivetime Devotions has built a reputation for changing lives and helping people grow closer to God.

There are three ways you can access this podcast study of Philippians:

1. Click on the link at the start of each session of this study guide.
2. Download the Drivetime Devotions app to your phone or tablet. Go to “Devotions” and select “Philippians.”
3. Go to drivetimedevotions.com/devotions/philippians.

If you prefer reading the devotional study over listening to a podcast, you can purchase the book, *Philippians: The Eight Places Joy is Won or Lost*, at Pastors.com.

HELPFUL TIP

Depending on your device settings, you may need to select the PLAY BUTTON  or the UNMUTE BUTTON  on the Drivetime audio player when it is fully loaded.



HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed to be used as a downloaded file on your tablet or phone. You do not need to print it out, unless you want to. Throughout the guide, you will see areas where you can type directly into the guide. There are also convenient links that direct you to external resources including Scripture passages on *BibleGateway.com*.

HELPFUL TIP

For best experience on Android platforms, please view this interactive study on Adobe Acrobat Reader.





A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



LISTEN

Prepare yourself before each study by listening to each week's five daily podcast episodes (one per day).



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

Open each meeting with a time for everyone to check in on each other's progress with the podcast. Accountability is a key to success in this study!



KEY VERSE

Each week you will find a key verse from the chapter you are studying. You may want to memorize this verse together as a group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

These are questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. The material in this study is meant to be your servant, not your master. Therefore there is no reason to rush through your discussions. Give everyone ample time to share their thoughts.

Some questions will reference the verses from which they are taken. Many groups will want to have someone read those verses accompanying the question. There is something powerful about hearing the Bible read aloud together as a group.



LIVING ON PURPOSE

This section helps you encourage each other in balancing God's five purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Each week, there will be a prayer, practical action, or personal assignment that focuses on one of these purposes.



PRAYING TOGETHER

At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

Get ready for God to do incredible things in your life as you begin the adventure of learning more deeply about the most exciting message in the world: the truth about God!



TELL A FRIEND

As you go through each session, the Holy Spirit may bring to mind different people in your life. You may even want to write their names down beside a point, phrase, or verse in the margins. Take the opportunity to share God's Word in a friend's life during the week.



WEEK ONE: Philippians 1



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. If you are just starting together as a group, go around the room and share your name, where you grew up and something about your life.
2. What picture comes to mind when you hear the word “joy?”



KEY VERSE

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.

Philippians 1:4



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What persons in your life are you most thankful for? Verses 1–6
2. Why do you think praying for others has so much potential for increasing our joy? Verses 7–11
3. The greater purpose of evangelism and the encouragement of others helped Paul to look beyond his circumstances. What helps you? Verses 12–19
4. To live is Christ, to die is gain (verse 21). How could the truth in this verse make a difference in your daily life? Verses 20–30



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Fellowship

Pray prayers of thanksgiving and care for each other as a group during this study. Share your prayer needs with the group, have everyone pair up with one other person in your group, and commit to pray for each other for a few minutes at least once a day.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs you just mentioned as you end your meeting.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK TWO



WEEK TWO: Philippians 2



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

Did you feel like your level of joy went up or down the last week?



KEY VERSE

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Philippians 2:3



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How do you see ambition and conceit getting in the way of your desire to be humble?
Verses 1–4
2. How does the example of Jesus' love empower your desire to live with humility?
Verses 5–11
3. Do you feel most of the time like your trying to earn a life or spend a life that God has given? Verses 12–18
4. Which of the six ways to enjoy any job that we looked at on day 4 and 5 of this week do you feel it would be most helpful to put into practice this week? Verses 19–30

WEEK TWO



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Discipleship

Encourage each other to live with humility by adding a request for a humble heart to the prayers you're praying for each other during this study.



PRAYING TOGETHER

As you pray for each other's needs before you leave, pray that you would be blessed with Jesus' encouragement, comfort, fellowship, tenderness and compassion (verse 1) this week.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK THREE: Philippians 3



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

When were you first introduced to who Jesus really is?



KEY VERSE

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Paul had a list of traditions and accomplishments that he had seen become a barrier to his knowing Christ. If you were to make such a list, what would be on it? Verses 1–6
2. How have you experienced the “surpassing greatness of knowing Christ” that Paul talks about in these verses? Verses 7–9
3. What are the actions and attitudes in your life that create a deeper desire to “want to know Christ”? Verses 10–11
4. Where do you need strength to press on right now? Verses 12–14
5. What does it mean to you to be a citizen of heaven? Verses 15–21



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ministry

Add to your prayers for one another's needs each day during this study the prayer, "God,

strengthen _____ to press on towards the goal today."



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for strength for each of you to keep pressing on no matter what the circumstances.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK FOUR: Philippians 4



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

Share how God has been answering the needs this group has committed to prayer during this study.



KEY VERSE

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Philippians 4:4

Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How could it be possible to rejoice always? What's one thing you could do to get closer to that goal? Verses 1-4
2. How have you seen prayer replace anxiety with a sense of God's peace? Can you recall a specific time you experienced this? Verses 6-7
3. As you look at the eight qualities in verse 8, which works best to help you refocus your thoughts? Verses 8-9
4. Paul said he had to learn to be content. What is God using in your life to teach you contentment? Verses 10-13

WEEK FOUR



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Evangelism

The Philippians gave so that others could experience the joy of the good news. Ask the Lord in prayer this week how you could give or continue to give to increase another's joy. (Remember: As you pray and as you give to others to experience joy, your joy is multiplied!)



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for one another's joy in the Lord as you end this study of Philippians.



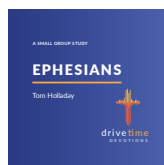
TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

NEXT STEPS

DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS: EPHESIANS SMALL GROUP STUDY

Download this six-week study through the book of Ephesians. This study will help you discover the life you were meant to live and how to make the most of what you've been given.



PUTTING IT TOGETHER AGAIN WHEN IT'S ALL FALLEN APART

Walk through Pastor Tom's book together for seven weeks and follow the small group study guide provided with the book. This study will help teach you principles for rebuilding your life. Books are available for purchase at Pastors.com.



FOUNDATIONS

Written by Tom Holladay and Kay Warren, *Foundations* teaches 11 core truths of the Christian faith. Choose individual topics such as "The Bible" or "Creation," or walk through the entire course using video teaching from Tom and Kay. Study guides are available at Pastors.com and all *Foundations* videos are available at saddleback.com/foundations. You can also look for *Foundations* classes taught live at a campus near you at saddleback.com/foundations.



