



Unchained

PART TWO: A STUDY THROUGH PHILIPPIANS

June 7 – July 26, 2020¹

Reading Guide for Sermon Series:

June 7 – Phil 2:12-18

June 14 – Phil 2:19-30

June 21 – Phil 3:1-6

June 29 – Phil 3:7-11

July 5 – Phil 3:12-16

July 12 – Phil 3:17 - 4:1

July 19 – Phil 4:2-9

July 26 – Phil 4:10-23

Review Questions, Phil 1:1-2:11

- How can we “reframe our difficult circumstances” in order to see how God might use them to advance the gospel?
- How does the downward, cross-shaped journey of Jesus challenge modern notions of love? Of family life? Of relationships at work?

Questions for Phil 2:12-30

- Where does Paul think the motivation for living a holy life comes from? Why does this matter?
- How can we avoid falling into the trap of “grumbling and complaining”?
- Tell us about someone who has “nurtured you in the faith,” the way Paul did Epaphroditus and Timothy.
- Who are you “nurturing in the faith”? Why did you choose to make this investment?

Questions for Phil 3:1-21

- What areas of your life tempt you to “put your confidence” in them, or define yourself by? What can help us put our confidence only in Jesus?
- How does Paul’s idea of “sharing in Christ’s sufferings” challenge you?
- What might it look like in your life to “count everything as loss” and press on toward the goal of living like Christ?
- In verse 16, what do you think Paul means by living up to “what we have already obtained”?
- What are some areas in your life where your faith might be in conflict with what the world considers ordinary? What might Jesus be calling you to do?

Questions for Phil 4:1-23

- How do joy and thanksgiving affect our emotional and mental state?
- What causes you the most anxiety and how do you usually respond? How might Paul’s instructions change how you handle anxiety?
- How does Paul’s teaching about generosity challenge your current approach to financial stewardship?
- Share a story of a time when you felt content, even though your circumstances were difficult. How did it affect your relationship with Jesus? With others?

¹ This discussion guide was written by Dawn Gentry and uses questions adapted from an online class on Philippians with NT Wright found here: www.udemy.com/course/paul-and-his-letter-to-the-philippians-small-group-edition/

Community-Building Ideas

- Gather “small.” Instead of trying to gather your whole group at once, have people sign up for smaller gatherings. Grab coffee with a couple of group friends and invite a new neighbor to join you. Invite 6-8 people over for a cookout. Connect with someone and take a walk.
- Gather by zip code. Take a neighborhood prayer walk in the community where you live. Who do you know nearby who might want to join you? Pray for the needs you see, for people you know, and for people you don’t yet know. How might God bless this neighborhood through you?
- Gather at the church building. Starting in June, you can reserve a room for meeting and that might be a great way to reconnect mid- or late-summer to encourage one another toward a larger fall group launch. Connect with your staff coach about how to reserve a room and recommended safe practices at the building.

Serving Opportunities

Gather some friends from your group and help out one of our ministry partners:

- Mission Church has people load food bags every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1-3. They also have people deliver food bags each Monday morning from 6-9. Email amy@thisission.org to sign up for either.
- Abide loads food bags every Thursday and Friday 1-5 and Saturday 12-3 & then distributes it Mondays 3-6. Sign up using this link:
https://www.abideomaha.org/events?fbclid=IwAR3MTQBt9zdhhxxM0PWpQSs49V7CFfQoH7Z7NA8KQ_OXSzkqvVqO8C5paEg

For more information about serving opportunities (solo or as a group), please check out the church Facebook page, or reach out to Eva Brandt at evab@cccomaha.org.

Prayer Points

- Pray for our national and local leaders who are making safety recommendations regarding COVID 19.
- Pray for our church leaders who are seeking wise counsel and making determinations regarding gathering opportunities for the church family.
- Pray for those who continue to be exposed and/or ill with COVID 19.
- Pray for our first responders and health care workers who live daily with a higher risk of contracting the disease.
- Pray for those who are separated from loved ones because of travel and safety restrictions.
- Pray for God to reveal to you the best way to “be Jesus’ hands and feet” in your neighborhoods.

Missionary Prayer Requests:

- Pray for supernatural protection over missionaries, wherever they serve. Ask God to give them courage and strength as they face difficulties.
- Pray for them to have intimacy with Jesus. Only as they stay connected to the vine will they be able to accomplish God’s kingdom work, in the Holy Spirit’s power.
- Pray for unity for their respective teams. Pray for each member of the team to be humble and quick to forgive. Pray against jealousy and division.
- Pray for daily faithfulness that leads to kingdom success. Pray that God would give them clarity of vision and commitment to long-term results, whatever the cost.

You can learn more about CCC supported missionaries at: <https://www.cccomaha.org/missionaries>