

# PART FOUR

Philippians 4:1-5 // November 13



## Prepare Your Heart & Mind

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



## Reflect/Connect

- Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

## Grow in the Word

- These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

## REFLECT/CONNECT

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?
- What is your natural response to conflict, and how do you normally handle it?

## GROW IN THE WORD

With great affection, Paul charged the Philippians to persevere in their faith by standing firm in the Lord (v. 1).

- In what ways do the Philippians need to stand firm? In other words, what do they need to stand firm against? See Philippians 1:27-28; 3:17-20.
- How would you describe what Paul feels for the Philippians? Note the number of emotionally charged words Paul used in this single verse.
- How does Paul's love and affection relate to the exhortations he listed in the next few verses?

Paul urged two individuals by name to address their conflict and asked specific members of the Philippian church to help them arrive at a resolution (v. 2-3).

- Why do you think Paul named these two individuals specifically instead of providing a general command for harmony?

## GROW IN THE WORD

- What danger can unresolved conflict pose to the church? See Acts 15:36-39; John 17:20-23; Matthew 5:23-24.
- How can you "live in harmony" with someone when you have a genuine conflict or disagreement with them?

Paul continued to exhort the Philippians to rejoice, and to be known for gentleness and patience before all men (v. 4-5).

- In what ways do the two commands in these verses relate to resolving conflict and pursuing unity?
- How do you want your thoughts, feelings, or behaviors to change in light of this passage?

# SERIES RESOURCES

## OVERVIEW: PHILIPPIANS

An animated video by the Bible Project provides a thorough overview of the book of Philippians. The video offers a great summary of the book while emphasizing that every Christian's story can be an expression of Jesus' ultimate story.

- <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/philippians/>

## INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS

A fundamental introduction to the book of Philippians from the ESV Study Bible. Get a quick synopsis of the book's background to help you gain a better understanding of the book of Philippians as a whole.

- <https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-philippians/>

## PHILIPPIANS: A COMMENTARY BY THE GOSPEL COALITION

A free, downloadable commentary of the entire book of Philippians. This commentary offers background material and a section-by-section commentary of the entire book.

- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/philippians/>

## BE JOYFUL: EVEN WHEN THINGS GO WRONG, YOU CAN HAVE JOY BY WARREN WIERSBE

A timeless resource by one of this generation's most trusted teachers, Be Joyful gives readers invaluable insights into the history, meaning, and context of Philippians. This new version includes study questions at the end of each chapter to aid readers in reflection and application.

- [https://www.amazon.com/Be-Joyful-Philippians-Things-Commentary-ebook/dp/B005MT7WSC/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659553546&sr=1-19](https://www.amazon.com/Be-Joyful-Philippians-Things-Commentary-ebook/dp/B005MT7WSC/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659553546&sr=1-19)

## LIFE LESSONS FROM PHILIPPIANS: GUIDE TO JOY BY MAX LUCADO

A guide through the book of Philippians by pastor and author Max Lucado that offers its readers thoughtful questions, encouraging stories, and reflections to dig deeper into God's Word. Lucado unpacks Paul's letter to the young church emphasizing Paul's focus on living a life full of joy, peace, and contentment even in the midst of trouble.

- [https://www.amazon.com/Life-Lessons-Philippians-Max-Lucado-ebook/dp/B077Y2F619/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659553546&sr=1-18](https://www.amazon.com/Life-Lessons-Philippians-Max-Lucado-ebook/dp/B077Y2F619/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659553546&sr=1-18)