

## (1) An Opening THOUGHT

“To a true child of God, the invisible bond that unites all believers to Christ is far more tender, and lasting, and precious; and, as we come to recognize and realize that we are all dwelling in one sphere of life in Him, we learn to look on every believer as our brother, in a sense that is infinitely higher than all human relationships.”

A.T. Pierson

## (3) Key POINTS

- Christian unity is critically important and is only achieved through humility.
- When we work together for the gospel it is evidence that God is working among us.
- The gospel progresses as each of us grows in our ability to show love towards one another in godly ways.
- Our prayers can be full of joy and gratitude even when our circumstances are difficult.

## (2) Read the TEXT Together

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,  
To all God’s holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:1-11

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Do you have questions or comments about this resource?  
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**GROUPS RESOURCE**

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO HELP GROUPS FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER

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## (4) Looking to the WORD

Read over the passage above (Phil 1:1-11).

- What grabs your attention in this passage?
- What are the key phrases?
- What does this passage reveal about what God is up to in the lives of believers?

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## (5) Looking at our WORLD

Read over the Key Points again. They speak to us of the way we treat one another and work together.

- What are some things that get in the way of living out humility and love in our relationships with one another?
- In what ways is humility, love and unity in relationships promoted and practiced (or not) within our homes, workplaces, or recreational spheres?

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## (6) Looking at our LIVES

- As we look ahead to the next few months of GROUPS, how might God be directing you to deepen your love for one another in your GROUP in specific ways?
- Even though Paul is writing from prison, he is full of gratitude and joy for God's work among the Philippian believers. Take some time to share with one another about tough circumstances that are impacting you right now. For every person who shares, have others in the GROUP point out how they have seen God at work in that person's life. Pray and ask God to fill that person with joy overflowing.

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## (7) Looking AHEAD and PRAYING Together

Here are this week's On-Ramps:

- Do we value Christian unity enough to be humble with one another?
- Will we work together for the progress of the gospel?
- How is God calling us to deepen our love for one another and show it in godly ways?
- Will we be a church of prayer, joyful and grateful in God regardless of our circumstances?

In what ways might you act on these? Include this in your prayer time.