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C.A.R.E. SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

C.A.R.E. Study Material

Book of Philippians

*And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

(Acts 5:42 (KJV))



For more information on the C.A.R.E. Ministry
Please email CARE@bgtintl.com or call the Church office
Christ-Like Approach in Reaching Everyone

Copies of this Study Material can be found
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Table of Contents

Date to Cover

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. Philippians 1:1-30 | _____ |
| 2. Philippians 2:1-30 | _____ |
| 3. Philippians 3:1 - 4:1 | _____ |
| 4. Philippians 4:2-23 | _____ |

Notes

1. Philippians 1:1-30

Paul's letter to the church at Philippi is flavored by the context in which it was written—a lonely jail cell. Even so, Paul's message is inspiring and filled with hope. In this passage, he summarizes what his life goal is: living for Christ. This is Paul's great passion. In fact, Paul writes that neither death nor life means anything other than an opportunity to be with and live for Christ.

OPEN

1. What do you think the key to successful living is?

EXPLORE

2. From where does Paul write the book of Philippians? (1:7)
3. What was Paul's attitude toward living? (1:20-25)
4. What was Paul's attitude toward the threat of death? (1:20-25)
5. What admonition did Paul give to the Philippians concerning their own attitude toward living? (1:27)

GET IT

6. How does your attitude affect your ability to succeed in struggles?
7. How would you summarize Paul's life motto in your own words?
8. What would you say is your own life's motto?
9. In what ways can your life bring honor to God in day-to-day circumstances?

APPLY

10. In what area of life could you pray for an attitude improvement?

2. Philippians 2:1-30

Paul pointed to Christ as a perfect model of unselfishness. Paul's challenge to believers is to imitate Christ's steadfast obedience to God in becoming a lowly servant to us all. Jesus was willing to give up the glory of heaven to become a man, who endured all the vicissitudes of life and then suffered the agony of the cross for all of humanity's sins. That kind of sacrifice, that kind of service, is what Jesus expects Christians to imitate.

OPEN

1. Do you believe people are basically good or people are basically evil?

EXPLORE

2. What does Paul warn believers not to do? (2:3)
3. How are believers supposed to relate to other people? (2:3-4)
4. What rights did Christ forfeit by becoming a human being? (2:6-8)
5. What reward did Christ gain through his unselfish actions? (2:9-11)

GET IT

6. What is your definition of selfishness?
7. What is most difficult about putting others' needs before your own?
8. What opportunities would a servant-hearted believer seek throughout the day?
9. How does Christ's example inspire you in your pursuit of becoming a servant in your home? in your workplace? in your church?

APPLY

10. In what specific way will you attempt to be a servant to a family member, friend, or coworker today?

3. Philippians 3:1 - 4:1

Success in business, success in one's familial relationships—success in general is an elusive goal for many. In this passage, Paul focuses on this universal desire and compares it with the satisfaction of knowing Jesus personally. Paul finds there is no comparison to the joys of his relationship with Christ. Paul illustrates this truth from his own life experiences. He had almost everything that defined success in his world—a proper Jewish education and complete adherence to the law. But all of this was meaningless because he did not know God's only Son, his Savior Jesus Christ.

OPEN

1. Who do you believe is the most successful man or woman you know? Why?

EXPLORE

2. In whom does Paul say a believer ought to place his or her trust? (3:3)
3. For what reasons could Paul have become prideful? (3:4-6)
4. How did Paul's attitude change toward his former accomplishments? (3:7-8)
5. What does Paul say is his greatest claim since he became a believer? (3:8)

GET IT

6. What is the world's definition of success?
7. How do you find yourself tempted to buy the world's definition of success?
8. What would you need to change about your life to more closely imitate Paul's attitude?
9. Why is it dangerous to rely on material treasures to bring you happiness?

APPLY

10. What is competing for your confidence in Christ? What do you plan to do to address that issue?

4. Philippians 4:2-23

Paul concluded his letter to the Philippians with another personal testimony of what he was learning through the sufferings and trials of his life. He focused on the contentment that God gave him no matter what the situation. He called it a secret—a key to successful living.

OPEN

1. What professional sport do you think is the most mentally challenging? What do you think is the key to succeeding in that sport?

EXPLORE

2. What kind of relationship did Paul have with the Philippian believers? (4:10)
3. What word does Paul use to describe his present life? (4:11)
4. What variety of conditions had Paul apparently experienced up to that point? (4:12)
5. What is the secret to which Paul refers? (4:13)

GET IT

6. Why are many people constantly dissatisfied with how their life is going?
7. What role does a person's attitude play in the outcome of his or her life?
8. How does Christ give you strength from day to day?
9. How do you usually take care of your physical, social, and spiritual needs?

APPLY

10. When can you set aside some time to ask God to help you become content with what he has given you?

Notes

[illegible]