



## **Studies in Philippians: Bearing the Mark of Joy**

*Farewell Reminders*  
Philippians 1 – 4

### **Sermon Proposition**

God Has a Word for You!

### **Words of Challenge**

## **Words of Encouragement**

## **Words of Gratitude**

## **Open It!**

Some transitions in life are planned and prepared for (e.g. marriage or parenthood), others are abrupt and unexpected (e.g. losing a job or serious illness). How has God shown Himself faithful to you and your family during a life-transition?

## **Read It!**

Philippians 1:1 – 4:20

## **Consider It!**

What are you grateful for as you remember what God has done in the life of the First Free family?

What words of challenge from Paul's letter to the Philippians should govern our life together in the interim period? Why?

What promises of God should encourage us as we walk through this transition period?

What should be our priorities so that we soar and bear fruit?

## **Live It!**

Pray! Form a prayer partnership or prayer cord.

Serve! Stand in the gap by volunteering to serve in the nursery, on the guest services, or cleaning team.

Give! Be faithful and generous in giving to the ministry of the church

because God is faithful to you.

## Prayer Guide

MONDAY: Read and pray through Philippians 1:3-11.

*Heavenly Father, I ask you to begin a new work in us today knowing that you are faithful to complete every work you begin. Continue your work in us until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again. I pray that our love for each other will overflow more and more, and that we will keep on growing—understanding what really matters, so that we may live pure and blameless lives until Christ returns. May we bear fruit as followers of Jesus Christ. Produce in our lives the fruit of the Spirit and give us the joy of making disciples—reproducing after Christ’s-kind. For the glory and praise of God. Amen.*

TUESDAY: Read and pray through Philippians 1:27-30.

*Heavenly Father, You have called us to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel—to live as citizens of heaven. I am on my knees as an expression of solidarity with my persecuted brothers and sisters. We are fighting for the Good News together. I pray for those who are presently being threatened, arrested, imprisoned, and tortured for their faith in Jesus Christ. Give them wisdom and courage so that they won’t be afraid to make you known even in the face of opposition. You have given us the privilege of trusting in Christ. May we also know the privilege of suffering for Him. In Jesus name, and for His Glory. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: Read and pray through Philippians 2:1-11

*Lord Jesus, We are not our own. We belong to you. Restore the foundations of our unity. Remind us of your love poured out for each one of us. Renew Spirit-forged relationships in this body. Give us tender and sympathetic hearts for each other and the lost. May we be a source of joy to our church leaders by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose. Show me my selfishness—how I live for myself and not others. Teach me to set aside my agendas, my own interests and motives in order to humbly pursue what is in the best interest of others. Mold my attitudes in your likeness. Though you were God, you*

*did not demand and cling to your rights as God. You made yourself nothing; you took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form you submitted to the will of the Father by bearing our sin in your body on the cross. May our life together exalt your name to the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

THURSDAY: Read Philippians 2:12-16

*Heavenly Father, I give thanks for your saving work in our lives. Continue to work in us, giving us the desire to obey and the power to do what is pleasing to you. Forgive us for harming the reputation of this church by our constant complaining and argumentative spirit. Cleanse us so that we may live as your children in the midst of a crooked and depraved generation. May our obedience to the word of life be steadfast—a daily light in our dark world. Make our lives count. In anticipation of the Day of Christ, Amen.*

FRIDAY: Read Philippians 3:3-12

*Heavenly Father, Forgive me for placing confidence in the flesh, in my religious self. Set me free from thinking that being born into the right family, attending the right church, reading the right translation of the Bible, going to the right schools, knowing right doctrine, and fulfilling Christian behavioral standards will save me. I place these wrong assumptions on the curb to be hauled away as garbage. My desire is to know You. I want to run the race between here and heaven clothed in Christ's righteousness, knowing the power of His resurrection, sharing in His death that I might share in His life. May I finish well for Your glory and the good of all people, Amen.*

SATURDAY: Read Philippians 4:10-20 (Heb. 13:5-6 and Psalm 23:1).

*Heavenly Father, Teach me the secret of contentment. I need to learn how to be satisfied with what I have, whether I have much or little. I need to learn the difference between needs and wants. I have so much, but often feel like I have so little. Today I chose to depend on Jesus for every need. I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need. You are our provider. You take care of us and supply all our needs according to Your glorious riches, which have*

*been given to us in Christ Jesus. May our trust and obedience bring glory to your name, forever and ever. Amen.*