

A Reading Guide
For
Philippians

REDEMPTION
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Remember the tips!

Tip 1: Start with *why*.

Are you reading out of obligation or out of joy in relationship?

Tip 2: Expect great things.

Are expecting to have fun or to be bored?

Tip 3: Have a strategy to beat the defense.

Prayer before reading.

Prayer during reading.

Prayer after reading.

Tip 4: Watch the whole movie.

Set aside enough time for the whole book in one sitting.

Tip 5: Lather. Rinse. Repeat.

What gets repeated gets *remembered*.

Tip 6: Read out loud.

Better focus. Better recall.

Tip 7: Read alone.

God. You. Your Bible. This book & a pen.

Prayers

Before: Lord, open now my heart to hear,

And through your Word to me draw near.

Let me your Word e'er pure retain;

Let me your child and heir remain.

During: On my heart imprint your image,

Blessed Jesus, King of grace,

That life's riches, cares, and pleasures

Have no pow'r to hide your face.

This the superscription be:

Jesus, crucified for me,

Is my life, my hope's foundation,

And my glory and salvation.

After: Lord Jesus, help me remember what I have read here today. Let's talk about this again throughout the day. Bring it to my mind in periods of downtime. Remind me of your Word as I face situations where your Word brings comfort, reminders, instructions, or even correction. Let your Word saturate my thoughts and attitudes.

I. Foundation

- ☐ 1/11 Read Philippians
- ☐ 1/12 Read Philippians
- ☐ 1/13 Read Philippians
- ☐ 1/14 Read Philippians as if you were Paul in prison
- ☐ 1/15 Read Philippians. Do a study on the author.
- ☐ 1/16 Read Philippians in a different translation.
- ☐ 1/17 Read Philippians
- ☐ 1/18 Read Philippians as if you were a member of the church receiving this letter for the first time. Also, come to Bible class to talk about this little exercise.
- ☐ 1/19 Read Philippians. Do a study on the audience.
- ☐ 1/20 Read Philippians. Write a one-paragraph summary of the book (don't overthink this)
- ☐ 1/21 Read Philippians. Make a list of main themes you find.
- ☐ 1/22 Read Philippians
- ☐ 1/23 Read Philippians. Do a study of the setting of Philippi
- ☐ 1/24 Read Philippians in a third translation
- ☐ 1/25 Read Philippians. Review your summary from 1/20 and see if you can narrow it down to 2-3 sentences. Also come to Bible class to share your experiences so far.
- ☐ 1/26 Read Philippians. Form the themes from 1/21 into a very general outline.
- ☐ 1/27 Read Philippians
- ☐ 1/28 Read Philippians
- ☐ 1/29 Read Philippians
- ☐ 1/30 Read Philippians. Edit your work from 1/20 and 1/25 to one or two sentences.
- ☐ 1/31 Read Philippians. Review your outline from 1/26. Can it be simplified? Clarified?
- ☐ 2/1 Read Philippians in a fourth translation. Also, come to Bible class and worship at church.
- ☐ 2/2 Read Philippians
- ☐ 2/3 Read Philippians
- ☐ 2/4 Read Philippians. Refine what you wrote on 1/30 into a single summary or purpose sentence.
- ☐ 2/5 Read Philippians. Finalize the outline from 1/31.

II. Framing

- ☐ 2/6 Read Philippians 1. Take your finalized outline from 2/5 (yesterday). Break it down one or two more levels based on each paragraph in chapter 1.
- ☐ 2/7 Read Philippians 2. Take your finalized outline from 2/5. Break it down one or two more levels based on each paragraph in chapter 2.
- ☐ 2/8 Read Philippians 3. Take your finalized outline from 2/5. Break it down one or two more levels based on each paragraph in chapter 3. Also, come to Bible class at church to receive some resources for further study of Philippians
- ☐ 2/9 Read Philippians 4. Take your finalized outline from 2/5. Break it down one or two more levels based on each paragraph in chapter 4.

III. Finish Work

- ☐ 2/7 Focus on 1:1-2. Do a word study on “servant/bondservant/slave.”
- ☐ 2/8 Focus on 1:3-6. Do a word study on “joy.”
- ☐ 2/9 Focus on 1:7-8
- ☐ 2/10 Focus on 1:9-11. Do a word study on “pure/sincere.”
- ☐ 2/11 Focus on 1:12-14
- ☐ 2/12 Focus on 1:15-18a
- ☐ 2/13 Do a word study on “selfish ambition/contention.”
- ☐ 2/14 Focus on 1:18b-26
- ☐ 2/15 Do a word study on “hope.” Also come to church for our observation of Transfiguration.
- ☐ 2/16 Read Philippians
- ☐ 2/17 Focus on 1:27-30
- ☐ 2/18 Focus on 2:1-4 Also come to church for Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes.
- ☐ 2/19 Do a word study on “fellowship/participation.”
- ☐ 2/20 Focus on 2:5-11
- ☐ 2/21 Do a word study on “nature/form.” Notice how different Greek words are translated the same in verses 6 and 7.
- ☐ 2/22 Focus on 2:12-13, also come to church.
- ☐ 2/23 Focus on 2:14-18.
- ☐ 2/24 Focus on 2:19-24.
- ☐ 2/25 Focus on 2:25-30. Do a word study on “honor/reputation/high regard/esteem.”
- ☐ 2/26 Read Philippians
- ☐ 2/27 Focus on 3:1-6.
- ☐ 2/28 Focus on 3:7-11.
- ☐ 3/1 Do a word study on “righteousness,” also come to church.
- ☐ 3/2 Focus on 3:12-16.
- ☐ 3/3 Focus on 3:17-4:1
- ☐ 3/4 Focus on 4:2-9.
- ☐ 3/5 Do a word study on “anxious/careful/worry.”
- ☐ 3/6 Focus on 4:10-13. Do a word study on “content.”
- ☐ 3/7 Focus on 4:14-23.
- ☐ 3/8 Read Philippians, also come to church. Hooray! You did it!

Philippians

Use this page to write down thoughts, questions, themes, and application as you do the first couple weeks of reading through Philippians.

Background Study – *Author*

What can you learn about Paul from the text itself?

You may want to consult your study Bible, a Bible dictionary, or an online study resource.

Background Study – *Audience*

What can you learn about the audience from the text itself?

Was it written to one person or to a group of people?

Were there people Paul knew well or had just heard about?

You may want to consult your study Bible, a Bible dictionary, or an online study resource.

Background Study – *Setting*

What can you learn about the region that Paul—and the audience—lived in? What about the time period?

What else was going on at the time?

Was it a time of peace or of persecution?

You may want to consult your study Bible, a Bible dictionary, or an online study resource

Summary (purpose statement)

The one-sentence summary of a book (finalized on Day 25) we will call a *purpose statement*. It's not very hard to craft this statement if you take it one small step at a time. This first step is to *not even start* until Day 10. Once you've read the book 10 times, you will know it quite well. At that time, writing a summary will be a piece of cake.

Day 10: Write a one-paragraph summary of Philippians (don't overthink this).

Day 15: Narrow your summary down to two or three sentences.

Day 20: Narrow your summary down to one or two sentences.

Day 25: Take what you wrote on Day 20 and get it down to a single, concise sentence.

Word Studies

Use this and the following page to jot down what you learn about important words and phrases from Philippians. You may want to consult your study Bible, a Bible dictionary, or an online study resource like studylight.org, biblehub.com, or blueletterbible.org.

Notes for word studies:

Application

*“You have not truly mastered any part of the Bible
until that part of the Bible has mastered you.”*

Use this space to write your applications of God’s Word. Use these questions and any other good ones you can come up with.

- What is God saying?
- How does that apply to you?
- How does this section of Scripture correct your thinking? Behavior? Attitude?
- What is God showing you about who he is?
- Is there something here you can immediately apply today?
- Is there anything here that leads me to repent? Ask for something from God? Give thanks?

You will likely need more pages!

