

Philippians

Bible Reading Plan for New Christians

A 21-Day Discipleship Reading Plan

The book of Philippians teaches new believers to rejoice in Christ, partner in the gospel, walk in humble obedience, press on in faith, and find contentment in the Lord rather than in changing circumstances.

Purpose

Philippians is a joyful and deeply practical letter for new Christians. Paul writes from prison, yet the letter is full of gratitude, gospel partnership, humble service, perseverance, peace, and contentment. It teaches believers that Christian joy is not rooted in easy circumstances, but in knowing Christ and living for His gospel.

As you read, keep asking one central question:

Is my joy, confidence, and purpose being shaped by Christ and His gospel?

How to Use This Plan

Each day, read the assigned passage slowly. Begin with prayer:

Lord, open my eyes to see Christ clearly, receive Your Word humbly, rejoice in the gospel, and walk in obedience today.

Then use either the Core Observation Questions or the S.O.A.P. Method. This plan is designed to be simple enough for personal devotions and useful enough for one-on-one discipleship, family worship, or small-group discussion.

Option 1: Core Observation Questions

1. What does this passage teach me about Jesus Christ?
2. What does this passage teach me about the gospel, joy, humility, perseverance, or contentment?
3. Is there a command to obey, a promise to trust, a warning to heed, or an example to follow?
4. What attitude, habit, or misplaced confidence does this passage confront?
5. What is one truth I need to believe today?
6. What is one step of obedience I should take?
7. How should I pray in response to this passage?

Option 2: The S.O.A.P. Method

- **S - Scripture:** Write down one verse or phrase that stood out.
- **O - Observation:** What does the passage say? What do you learn about Christ, the gospel, or the believer's life?
- **A - Application:** How does this truth apply to your thinking, worship, relationships, habits, joy, or obedience today?
- **P - Prayer:** Write a short prayer asking God to help you believe, obey, rejoice, and persevere in Christ.

21-Day Reading Plan Through Philippians

Read one passage each day. The passages are intentionally brief so that new Christians can slow down, think carefully, and respond in faith and obedience.

Day	Passage	Focus
1	Philippians 1:1-2	Grace and Peace in Christ
2	Philippians 1:3-8	Thank God for Gospel Fellowship
3	Philippians 1:9-11	Pray for Love with Discernment
4	Philippians 1:12-18	The Gospel Advances Through Hardship
5	Philippians 1:19-26	To Live Is Christ
6	Philippians 1:27-30	Walk Worthy and Stand Firm
7	Philippians 2:1-4	Humility and Unity in the Church
8	Philippians 2:5-11	The Mind and Exaltation of Christ
9	Philippians 2:12-18	Work Out Salvation and Shine as Lights
10	Philippians 2:19-30	Faithful Servants and Gospel Examples
11	Philippians 3:1-6	Beware False Confidence
12	Philippians 3:7-11	Gain Christ and Know Him
13	Philippians 3:12-16	Press On Toward the Goal
14	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Heavenly Citizenship and Steadfast Faith
15	Philippians 4:2-7	Unity, Rejoicing, Prayer, and Peace
16	Philippians 4:8-9	Think on What Is True and Practice Obedience
17	Philippians 4:10-13	Contentment in Christ
18	Philippians 4:14-23	Generosity, Partnership, and God's Supply
19	Philippians 1:3-11	Review: Gospel Fellowship and Prayer
20	Philippians 2:1-11	Review: Humility Shaped by Christ
21	Philippians 3:7-14; 4:4-9	Review: Rejoice, Press On, and Walk in Peace

Weekly Themes for Reflection

Week 1: Gospel Joy and Gospel Worthiness

Philippians 1:1-30

Key Question: Am I learning to rejoice in Christ and live in a way that is worthy of the gospel?

Week 2: Humility, Obedience, and Faithful Examples

Philippians 2:1-30

Key Question: How does the humility of Christ reshape my attitude, service, relationships, and obedience?

Week 3: Knowing Christ, Pressing On, and Resting in Peace

Philippians 3:1-4:23

Key Question: Where do I need to reject false confidence, pursue Christ, pray instead of worry, and practice contentment?

Key Truths to Watch For in Philippians

- **Christian joy is rooted in Christ:** Paul rejoices while imprisoned because his hope is anchored in the Lord and the advance of the gospel.
- **The gospel creates partnership:** Believers share together in gospel prayer, service, suffering, giving, and mission.
- **Humility follows the pattern of Christ:** Jesus humbled Himself, served sinners, obeyed the Father, and was highly exalted.
- **Righteousness is found in Christ, not personal achievement:** Paul counts his former religious confidence as loss in order to gain Christ.
- **Christian growth presses forward:** Believers have not arrived, but they keep pursuing Christ with hope and perseverance.
- **Prayer guards the anxious heart:** God calls His people to pray with thanksgiving and receive His peace.
- **Contentment is learned in Christ:** The believer can be content in every circumstance because Christ strengthens His people.

Simple Discipleship Prompts for New Christians

At the end of each week, discuss these questions with a pastor, mentor, parent, or mature believer:

1. What did you learn about Jesus Christ this week?
2. What part of Philippians was most encouraging to you?
3. What part challenged or convicted you?
4. How does Paul show joy in difficult circumstances?
5. Where do you need to grow in humility, unity, or service?
6. What false confidence do you need to reject so that you rest more fully in Christ?
7. Where do you need to pray rather than worry?
8. How can someone pray for you this week?

Simple Memory Verses from Philippians

Choose one of these passages to memorize during the reading plan. Memorization helps the truth of Scripture take root in the heart.

- Philippians 1:6 - God continues the work He begins in His people.
- Philippians 1:21 - To live is Christ, and to die is gain.
- Philippians 2:5-11 - Christ is the supreme example of humble obedience and exalted lordship.
- Philippians 3:7-11 - Christ is greater than every earthly or religious confidence.
- Philippians 4:4-7 - Rejoicing, prayer, thanksgiving, and peace belong together.
- Philippians 4:8-9 - Believers are called to think rightly and practice obedience.
- Philippians 4:11-13 - Contentment is learned through Christ who strengthens His people.

A Simple Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me to rejoice in You, walk worthy of the gospel, and follow Your humble example. Help me count all things as loss compared to knowing You. Train my mind in what is true, guard my heart with Your peace, and teach me contentment in every circumstance. Amen.

One-Page Weekly Review Sheet

Use this page at the end of each week or copy it for each week of the plan.

1. The clearest truth I saw about Jesus this week:

2. One verse or phrase I want to remember:

3. One area where the Lord convicted or encouraged me:

4. One step of obedience I need to take:

5. One question I want to ask a mentor or pastor:

6. Prayer response:

Notes

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