



# Study 5: Fellowship Day

## “His Good Purpose” in Our Lives

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### Fellowship in the Spirit Phil. 2:1

Sometimes I would slip the Bible from its little sack with hands that shook, so mysterious had it become to me. It was new; it had just been written. I marveled sometimes that the ink was dry. I had believed the Bible always, but reading it now had nothing to do with belief. It was simply a description of the way things were-of hell and heaven, of how men act and how God acts.

Corrie ten Boom, *The Hiding Place*

### Holding Firm to the Word of Life Phil. 2:16

Philippians 1:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus:

To all the saints in Christ Jesus **who are in Philippi**, including the overseers and deacons.

<sup>2</sup> **Grace to you and peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> I give thanks to my God for **every remembrance of you**, <sup>4</sup> always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, <sup>5</sup> because of **your partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am sure of this, that **he who started a good work in you** will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

## Growing in Knowledge Phil.1:8

Today, we practice considering our own lives in light of God's Word. What is true for the Philippians is true for us, too!

For many of us, it is challenging to see that our own daily lives could rise to that level of spiritual importance. It is challenging to remember that we ourselves are saints, set apart for God's good purpose in the world. But God has given us to one another, so that we can practice believing together in His good work! One way we do this is by sharing honestly, and listening faithfully to one another.

Each question is meant to help you to reflect upon and apply how the truths in Philippians 1:1-6, particularly the **bold phrases**, show up in your own life. **Choose one question** below to reflect on and share about with your table.

### **"...who are in Philippi"**

1. Tell us about where you are located in this season in your life (part of town, neighborhood, community, etc.) What is it like to be there right now? What do you appreciate about it? What is hard about it?

### **"Grace to you and peace..."**

2. Where do you need grace and peace in your life right now? What does it mean to you that grace and peace come straight from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ?

### **"...every remembrance of you..."**

3. Share about someone you regularly remember in prayer, and/or in thankfulness. Tell us about them and their place in your life. What is it like for you to carry them in your heart?

### **"...he who started a good work in you..."**

4. Share more about a good work that God has begun in you. (For example, a place in your life where God has begun to do a good work of healing, a ministry for which God has given you a heart or a vision, etc.)

### **"...your partnership in the gospel..."**

5. Recall Lydia and the jailer in Acts 16--two new believers that opened their hearts and homes, as partners in the gospel. Share about a simple way that *you* experience a sense of being a partner in the gospel (examples could be a relationship that has felt like a partnership to you, a way you enjoy offering simple hospitality, or serving behind the scenes, or taking leadership in a certain area, or praying intentionally for others... etc.)

## Reflections

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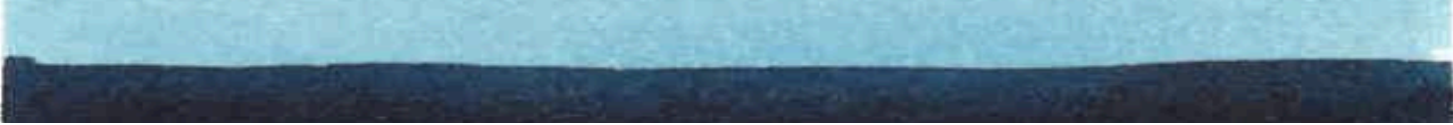
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## Praying with Joy Phil. 1:4

Please join us in praying together Philippians 4:4-7 in **BOLD**.

Use the pause after each prayer to pray silently, even writing your prayers.

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.**

*Practice Rejoicing! The Lord is near you right now.*

**Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**

*Practice presenting your requests to God. What are they?*

*Practice thanking God. For what?*

**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

*You are guarded and safe in God's peace! You can rest in it.*

***Let the glory of the Lord endure forever***

***Let the Lord be glad in His works.***

***I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live;***

***I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.***

Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things. Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. *Amen.* Philippians 4:8-9