



REAL JOY

A STUDY
THROUGH
PHILIPPIANS

WEEK 6
FEBRUARY 16

LIFE
GROUPS

GUIDE

THE JOY

that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
Philippians 2:15

GETTING STARTED

What brings you the most joy?

What do you 'grumble and complain' about the most?

STORY BACKGROUND

This week we are going to use the "Paraphrase It!" Bible Study Method from Rick Warren's 40 Days In The Word (pages 61-75):

THE "PARAPHRASE IT!" METHOD OF BIBLE STUDY:

- Read Philippians 2:12-18 over and over.
- Think about what God is saying to you.
- Put it into your own words.
- Search your heart to see how the verses apply to you.
- Talk to God about it.

The "Paraphrase It!" study method helps put the passage of Scripture into our own words. By putting Scripture into our own words, we gain a clearer understanding of what it means and what the Scripture is trying to say to us. Write back to God what you hear Him saying to you and in your own words.

OF BEING DIFFERENT



STORY: Philippians 2:12-18 (Read aloud)

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 2:1-2

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.



HEAD LEVEL: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- What are Paul's requests to the believers in Philippi?
- What does it mean to *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*? (See John 6:27-29, 1 Corinthians 15:58, and 2 Peter 1:5-10. NOTE: to *work out* means to complete what has already begun.)



HEART LEVEL: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What does it mean *to will and work for his good pleasure* (verse 13)?
- How are we to be different than the world? Does being different make us better or superior?
- Paul is in prison, arrested for coming to Philippi to preach the gospel. In verse 17, he says he is joyfully willing to sacrifice his life for the sake of reaching people for Jesus! Would God require the same sacrifice of us today? Explain.
- As you paraphrased this passage, share what stood out to you and why.



HANDS LEVEL: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- Paraphrase Philippians 2:15. How can you personally *shine as a light* in your home? Your community? Your workplace?
- What area in your life needs to change so you can mature in your relationship with God?

Next Week's Life Group: Missions Week - Learning To Be-Living It Out

Next Week's Story: Acts 15

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,*
and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. (*Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11*)
