



# BYOB READ TOGETHER: PHILIPPIANS

WEEK 1 - SERIES INTRODUCTION

JANUARY 2/3, 2021

## OVERVIEW

By describing Paul's situation and the context for the church in Philippi, we'll see just how much we have in common with these early Christ-followers - living in a world increasingly opposed to their beliefs, wondering where there is hope when it seems like the world is still so broken, the temptation to drift in our commitment to Jesus, and the need for us to pursue self-giving love, etc. Ultimately, both this series and the book of Philippians itself call us to make a choice: putting Jesus at the center of our lives and shaping our lives to look like his in the midst of this broken world. As we'll see again and again, this way of living leads not only to life, but to overwhelming joy!

Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me - everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who were some of the people who were part of the church in Philippi as described by Barry (as well as Acts 16)?
2. Why was it significant that Paul was a Roman citizen when he was imprisoned in Philippi?
3. How did Paul feel about the Philippians to whom he wrote this letter?
4. How would you describe the state of our world today?
5. Barry states that "we have a choice to make: putting Jesus at the center of our lives and shaping our lives to look like his in the midst of this broken world". In light of that, what does self-giving love look like?
6. Do you think this is easier or harder to do in today's culture? Why?
7. What are some other things that we have in common with the early Christ-followers (in addition to the ones described)?

## RESOURCES

[gracechurch.us/byob](http://gracechurch.us/byob)