

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Seeking the Interest of Christ (Pt. 1)***Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 2:19-24

## REVIEW

Paul wrote Philippians for the sake of unifying the church in the enjoyment and advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unity in the gospel births communal joy that results in the advance of the gospel to the lost. As we partner together in the gospel, the result is **joy made complete**.

In 2:14-18, Paul shows the Philippians what it looks like to complete joy by working out their salvation. Grumbling and complaining, Paul says, has no place in the life of the Christian. But the exhortation is not just “Stop grumbling” but “Shine brightly.” In other words, Paul is encouraging the Philippian church to hold fast to Christ and inconvenience themselves so that they might shine as lights in the world.

## APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 2:14-18

Consider practical ways to apply the text of Scripture. Think about implications at the individual and corporate level remembering God’s word shapes our beliefs and our behaviors.

1. Read Philippians 2:12-18
2. Why is it important to understand Paul’s motivation for telling the Philippians to refrain from grumbling and disputing/complaining is so that they might “shine as lights in the world”?
3. In what areas of your life are you most likely to grumble and complain?
  - a. How is grumbling ultimately against God and his provision for you?
  - b. How does complaining prevent you from shining as the light of Christ?
  - c. How does “holding fast to the word of life” help you put off grumbling?
4. How do we balance grumbling and complaining with being honest about hardships in our life?
5. What is Paul’s focus and joy in verses 17-18? How is this connected to doing all things without grumbling?

## STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 2:19-24

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Philippians 2:19-30
2. Why does Paul hope to send Timothy to the Philippians?
  - a. What seems to bring encouragement to Paul?
  - b. How might this instruct and challenge us?
3. How does Paul describe Timothy?

4. How is Timothy a model of what Paul has been calling the Philippians to, especially in verses 2:3-4? How does Timothy have the “mind of Christ”?
5. In these verses, how do you see Paul serving as a model of verses 2:3-4? How does Paul have the “mind of Christ?”
6. Describe Paul’s relationship with Timothy? How is this a model for us? How do Paul-Timothy type relationships serve the church body as a whole?
7. Paul “hope[s] in the Lord Jesus” and “trust[s] in the Lord” when he writes about the future.
  - a. What does this tell you about Paul’s faith?
  - b. What does this tell you about how’s Paul’s faith informs his plans?
8. General Bible study questions:
  - a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
  - b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
  - c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
  - d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Are there areas of your life marked more by grumbling than by shining? Identify evidences of grace where other group members are shining as the light.