

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Immovable God in a Movable World*Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 4:4-7

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 4:2-3, Paul urges Euodia and Syntyche (and the whole Philippian church) to agree in the Lord. With a deep affection for the health of “Grace Church Philippi” and an understanding of the gospel’s heavenly hope, Paul calls for these sisters to be reconciled in the gospel and continue in the mission to advance the gospel.

APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 4:2-3

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 4:1-7.
2. Why is Paul entreating Euodia and Syntyche to agree in the Lord? What motivations do you see in the text (and all of Philippians) for this reconciliation?
3. What’s the significance of Paul personally address Euodia *and* Syntyche? What’s the significand of Paul calling on others to help these sisters? How might these instructions work in the life of Restoration Church and our own personal discipling?
4. Why is unity in the life of a local church vitally important to its health and mission?
5. Praise God for the unity Restoration Church has and pray that this unity would remain a mark of our church body.

STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

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 4:4-7.
2. What does it mean to “rejoice”? What’s the significance that this rejoicing is to be “in the Lord”?
3. How does the word “always” inform Paul’s command to rejoice?
4. The Philippian church is undergoing persecution (1:27-30), is facing false teachers (3:2), have members at odd with one another (4:2-3), and Paul is in prison. With all that, what do they have to rejoice about?

5. What does it mean to “let your reasonableness be known to everyone”? Why would Paul include this here as part of his letter?
 6. What does it mean “The Lord is at hand”? How does this inform our rejoicing, our reasonableness, and our not being anxious?
 7. Why is the presence of the Lord the antidote to anxiety? See Psalm 23 and Isaiah 41:10.
 8. If God already knows all things, why should the Philippians (and us) pray about everything?
 9. Why is thanksgiving an important part of our prayer lives?
 10. What is the “peace of God”? What does it mean that God’s peace surpasses understanding? How do we experience this peace?
 11. What have you felt anxious about lately? How does the Lord’s nearness battle this anxiety and worry?
12. 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: Do you regularly hope in heaven and help others do the same?