

A decorative horizontal bar consisting of a central white rectangle with the word "PHILIPPIANS" in bold, dark blue, sans-serif capital letters. To the left of the text are three squares in a gradient from dark purple to red. To the right are two dark blue squares. The entire bar is framed by thin dark blue lines above and below.

**PHILIPPIANS**

SCRIPTURE JOURNAL

**Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible,  
New International Version® NIV®**

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# MEMORY VERSES

*<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

*<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

*<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

*<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

*<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*

*<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

*<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Philippians 2:5-11

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# INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

**Tools:** Bible, Journal, Pen

**Time:** 15-30 min

- Begin with prayer (Matt 6:9-14; Romans 8:26-27)
- Read the Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12-13)
- Make Observations
- Use the 7 Arrows



## OBSERVATIONS

### KEY WORDS

Underline words that are important. People, Places, Repeated Words

### COMMANDS, WARNINGS

“Star” what to do or not to do.  
Look for action words.

### CONNECTIVES

Circle these words.  
but = contrasts  
if = conditional clauses  
for, because, therefore =  
reason and results  
in order that = purpose

### CONTRAST, COMPARISON,

### ILLUSTRATION

Draw arrows and label.  
(CON, COM, ILL)  
Contrasts describe differences,  
comparisons describe similarities,  
illustrations describe information  
or ideas by example.

### REPETITION, PROGRESSIONS

Underline repeated words  
or phrases. [Bracket] lists of  
items or ideas. Ask. is there a  
significance to their order?

### QUESTIONS

Does the question asked  
introduce an idea, summarize  
a series of ideas, or challenge  
your thinking?

Put a question mark by  
anything you don't understand  
or need to study further.

# 7 ARROWS METHOD

## INTERPRETATION



What does this passage say?  
Summarize it in a sentence or two.



What does this passage mean to it's original audience?



What does this passage say about God?



What does this passage say about humanity?

## APPLICATION



What does this passage ask me to do?



How does this passage change the way I relate to other people?



What does this passage prompt me to pray to God?  
Write this down.

*Observation, Interpretation, Application*  
*Learn more at [faithe.org/read](http://faithe.org/read)*

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# INTRODUCTION

## **AUTHORSHIP**

Paul claims authorship of the letter to the Philippians in the opening verse (1:1). He wrote this letter from prison, probably while in Rome (some say Ephesus). The date of its writing varies depending on where you think it was written (Rome = 62 AD, Ephesus = 55 AD).

## **THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH**

Paul first visited the Roman colony of Philippi on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:12) in the early 50s. The first converts were Lydia and her household (Acts 16:14–15), the jailer and his household (Acts 16:33–34), and others (Acts 16:40). The letter also names Epaphroditus (2:25) and Euodia and Syntyche (4:2).

## **THE PURPOSE OF THE LETTER**

The church at Philippi had a special significance for Paul since it was the first church he founded in Europe. The church regularly sent support to Paul for his continuing ministry and one of Paul's primary reasons for writing is to thank them for a recent gift. Paul also gives them a ministry update, how he's faring in prison, Epaphroditus' health, and his plans to send Timothy to them in the future. Paul urges unity within the church, warns of false teachers, and encourages them to remain faithful to the Lord.

## **ANCIENT PHILIPPI**

Philippi was located along the famous Egnatian Way (a road system established by the Romans during their rule). Philippi was the site of a key military victory by Augustus Caesar, and as a result, it was declared a Roman colony with all of the benefits that came with



that designation. Philippi was the first city in present-day Europe where Paul established a church.

Existing archaeology reveals that Philippi had many Roman influences, it was a veritable ‘Rome away from Rome.’ There are columns that date back to Paul’s day revealing Latin inscriptions to Roman gods. There are remains of a theater, a large forum, shops, and two city gates. One small stone crypt (built over a cistern) near the forum was designated in later church tradition as the prison site of Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23–34). Other structures dating from NT times include a sports facility, pagan temples, octagonal and basilica-style churches.



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# JOY IN PHILIPPIANS

Prays with <b>joy</b> . . . . .	1:4
<b>Rejoices</b> that Christ is proclaimed . . . . .	1:18
Will remain living on earth, for the Philippians' <b>joy</b> in the faith . . . . .	1:25
Asks the Philippians to complete his <b>joy</b> . . . . .	2:2
Is glad and <b>rejoices</b> with the Philippians . . . . .	2:17-18
Sends Epaphroditus, that the Philippians might <b>rejoice</b> . . . . .	2:28
Tells the Philippians to receive Epaphroditus with <b>joy</b> . . . . .	2:29
Tells the Philippians to <b>rejoice</b> in the Lord . . . . .	3:1
Tells the Philippians they are his <b>joy</b> . . . . .	4:1
Tells the Philippians twice to <b>rejoice</b> in the Lord	4:4
<b>Rejoiced</b> in the Lord at the Philippians' concern for him . . . . .	4:10



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# PHILIPPIANS 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: <sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## OBSERVATION:

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## INTERPRETATION:

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**APPLICATION:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 1:3-8

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. <sup>8</sup> God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

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**INTERPRETATION:** *(What is the meaning of this passage?)*

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**APPLICATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**NOTES/PRAYER:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

## OBSERVATION:

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## INTERPRETATION:

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# PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18a

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

<sup>15</sup> It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup> The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup> But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

## **OBSERVATION:**

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**INTERPRETATION:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 1:18b-26

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,<sup>19</sup> for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.<sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.<sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!<sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;<sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.<sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,<sup>26</sup> so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

## **OBSERVATION:**

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**INTERPRETATION:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 1:27-30

<sup>27</sup> Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel <sup>28</sup> without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

<sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, <sup>30</sup> since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

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**INTERPRETATION:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

## OBSERVATION:

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## INTERPRETATION:

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# PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **OBSERVATION:**

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**INTERPRETATION:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup> as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

<sup>18</sup> So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

## **OBSERVATION:**

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**INTERPRETATION:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

<sup>19</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. <sup>20</sup> I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare.

<sup>21</sup> For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

<sup>23</sup> I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. <sup>24</sup> And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

<sup>25</sup> But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. <sup>26</sup> For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. <sup>29</sup> So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, <sup>30</sup> because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

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**OBSERVATION:**

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**INTERPRETATION:**

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**APPLICATION:**

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**NOTES/PRAAYER:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. <sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

<sup>4</sup> though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the



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righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

**OBSERVATION:**

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**INTERPRETATION:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

<sup>17</sup> Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. <sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

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**OBSERVATION:**

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**INTERPRETATION:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

<sup>2</sup> I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

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**OBSERVATION:**

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# PHILIPPIANS 4:10-20

<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

<sup>14</sup> Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. <sup>17</sup> Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

<sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



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**OBSERVATION:**

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