Philippians

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Welcome to RootWorks!

These questions to help you study the Bible are my gift to you. This may not seem like an expensive gift, but the treasures you will learn from studying God's Word will be priceless. I'm thrilled that you've signed up to study the Bible! One of my greatest joys is to see students reading and learning from God's love-letter. Thank you for bringing me joy!

What does RootWorks mean?

RootWorks comes from one of my favorite passages. It's Colossians 2:6-7 which reads:

"And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with him. Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all he has done."

As you can read from the passage, maturity in one's relationship with God requires nourishment. The imagery in this passage suggests that our spiritual roots must grow deep so that we'll continue in our vital relationship with God. This type of growth requires putting our ROOTS to WORK. Get it?

Why do this work and not just attend another Bible study?

The reason I've put this notebook together is because I want you to learn how to <u>study</u> the Bible through reading and asking questions. It would be easy for you to find a weekly Bible study where you become comfortable attending and digging into God's Word. Chances are, you would go to Bible study, sit, and listen to someone else teach. While this is good, it's definitely not best for your long-term maturity. You need to learn to study the Bible on your own. I want you to develop the habit of studying God's Word.

How long will RootWorks take to finish?

The answer to this question depends on how much thought you give to answering the questions. The questions are not intended to be "raced through." Your goal shouldn't be speed; it should be comprehension and personal application. As a general rule, each lesson should take thirty to forty-five minutes.

How often should I complete a lesson?

This depends upon you; upon how often you decide to sit down and work through this material. The idea would be to keep consistent. You don't want to do too much too fast and get burned out or tired. At the same time, you don't want to answer one question a month-this will break up the continuity and the cohesiveness of the lesson, and you'll be 35 years old by the time you finish. I would recommend you doing 1 download (lessons) each week!

What do I do when I finish all ten lessons?

Celebrate! You will have worked hard to reach this goal. Chances are you'll have some questions. If you're not in a small group I'd love to meet with you for a few minutes to hear those questions as well as what you learned as a result of your study (if you're in a Bible Fellowship group, get together with your leader).

What if I don't know an answer for a specific question?

Keep going. Don't let it discourage you. I would be surprised if you didn't have some questions that "stump" you. Give it some good thought and then skip it if you don't know the answer.

What Bible translation should I use?

You can use just about any translation Bible and figure out the questions. The questions are worded so that you can use almost any Bible and make it through. (I prefer the Christian Standard Bible, a new translation that's easy to read and very true to the original texts.) If this translation talk is confusing, don't worry about it. Basically, when the Bible was written 2,000 plus years ago, it was written in different languages. The New Testament was written in Greek and the Old Testament was written in (mostly) Hebrew. The Bible you own has been translated from its original language into English so you can read and understand it. (If you think algebra is tough, you should try Hebrew!) Have you ever noticed that you use some words differently than the ways your parents use those same words? After a time, words simply change their meaning; therefore, we have different translations of the Greek and Hebrew. Imagine the change that would happen over 400 years! That was when the King James Version was written . . . and that is why some of the language sounds so weird.

Should I also write in my own Bible during this study?

Yes! I hope you will write notes in the margin of your Bible, underline key verses, and watch ▼ your Bible become a friend that is waiting to tell you more about God and His desires for your ▼ life.

Why are we starting with Philippians?

Because it's one of my favorite books in the Bible. It's a short book. It has some very famous passages that I want you to study. If you haven't read it yet, you'll love it!

What are the other HABITS I should be developing?

Great question! (Thanks, I wrote it.) One of the many goals in our ministry is to help committed students develop HABITS necessary for continual spiritual growth. We've identified these habits and created some tools (like ROOTWORKS) to assist you in developing these habits:

Hang time with God

Accountability (with another believer)

Bible memorization

Involvement with the church body

Tithing commitment

Study the Bible

If you don't have any of the other tools besides this ROOTWORKS notebook, you can get them from your small group leader or at one of the weekend services.

I'm proud of you for taking the RootWorks challenge,

Brandon Johns

Drank John

Read this Stuff Before you begin

The Author: Paul

Paul wrote over half of the books in the New Testament. In your reading of the New Testament, you will find that Paul is passionate about God. He not only wants to live for Christ, he wants others to know him as well. Paul came from and elite Jewish background and spent several years trying to persecute and destroy the early Christian Church.

His zeal for persecution ended when God "sent him for a spin." If you aren't awareness of how Paul became a Christian, I encourage you to read about his conversion experience in the book of Acts (its mentioned three times: Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-21; 26:12-18). Once God changed Paul's heart, he was on his way to become a great preacher, missionary, and church planter. Paul was one of God's key instruments in the rise of Christianity and the building of the early Church.

The Audience: Christians in Philippi

The apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians from a Roman jail cell. He was writing to the Christians in the church of Philippi whom he knew from his earlier years of ministry. Paul established this church and was keeping in contact with them. He had heard reports that they were suffering and that there was some false teaching in their midst. He wanted to set them straight and remind them of his foundational teaching.

As a pastor, I love reading this book because Paul expresses, in great detail, his love for his people. He wants them to know that he loves Jesus, and he wants them to follow and love Jesus too. Paul is filled with the love of Christ and everything else is worthless in comparison.

My prayer is that you will also find everything in life worthless in comparison to knowing Jesus Christ.



Philippians 1:1-8

Questions for Philippians 1:1-2

- 1. The term "servant" is similar to the word "slave" or "slave to a master." Why do you think Paul would call himself a servant or slave of Jesus Christ?
- 2. What would a present day servant "look like?" Give some specific examples.
- 3. When Paul addresses ALL the Christians in Philippi he greets them using the word "grace." This word means "God's favor is given to sinful people with no strings attached." I like to define grace as "undeserved favor." Why do you think Paul started a letter with this greeting?

Questions for Philippians 1:3-6

1. In verses 3-6 you should be able to sense Paul's love for these Christians. List three examples of Paul's love (i.e. v. 3 "I thank my God every time I remember you.")

Who is someone in your life that when you think of them you break out in a ♥ prayer of thanksgiving? Have you ever told this person? [At the end of your ♥ study try writing them a letter and let them know you appreciate them.] ▼

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 3. Is it easy or difficult for you to help your friends during their difficult times?
- 4. How do you like to be treated during difficult times?
- 5. Reread Philippians 1:1-8 and summarize the passage in one sentence.

or difficult for you to help your friends during their difficult times?

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Philippians 1:9-1♥

Questions for Philippians 1:9-11

1. In these verses Paul outlines a prayer for the Christians in Philippi. Read the first two sentences of this prayer and then fill in the blanks.

- 2. What do you think it means be "pure and blameless?"
- 3. List three words that define purity to you.
- 4. Do you know any Christians who could be described as pure? What is it about that person that is attractive to you?
- 5. Using verses 9-11 as an example of a prayer, spend a few minutes and pray that prayer for someone you love.

Questions for Philippians 1:12-14

- 1. What has happened as a result of Paul's imprisonment?
- 2. What does Paul's experience say about how God can work through difficult circumstances?
- 3. How does Paul's experience relate to the following verse?
- "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." Romans 8:28
- 4. Do you ever feel imprisoned at school or chained to someone?
- 5. How might your "imprisonment" serve to help you talk about God?

Questions for Philippians 1:15-18

- 1. Paul is talking about two types of preaching being conducted while he's in jail. One group has sincere motives while the other group has greedy motives. Paul recognizes the mixed motives but he's thrilled the message of Christ is getting out regardless of motives. What is an example of a church having greedy motives?
- 2. What can one do when he/she recognizes impure motives?



4. Reread Philippians 1:9-19 and summarize the passages in one sentence.

WHAT IS ONE TRUTH YOU'VE LEARNED FROM LESSON TWO?▼
HOW CAN YOU APPLY THIS TRUTH TO YOUR LIFE? ▼

