

“Joy In The Everyday: The Deepest Relationships”

Growth Group Guide

April 26, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

Paul and the Philippians were all wrapped up together in Jesus. They shared Jesus’s life, His favor, salvation, acceptance, forgiveness, His presence, and empowerment. They shared a common purpose: a partnership in the spreading of the Gospel. They were so wrapped up together in Jesus that Paul considered them to be right there with him in all his ministry work. Is this a new way for you to see yourself with other brothers and sisters in Christ, even ones in other countries? Discuss.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer inviting the Spirit to lead your time of discussion on the deep relationships Christians share. Celebrate that Jesus made this possible because of His great love for each of us.

Psalm 117:2 ESV. For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

John 13:34-35 AMBC. I give to you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another. By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves].

2 Corinthians 5:14 NLT. Christ’s love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. **Read Philippians 1:7-8.** What picture of Paul do these verses give you? Is it a different picture than one you may have had of him?
2. Paul felt justified for the way he felt about the Philippians because he held them in his heart. In the Bible, the heart feels more than emotion and includes all the parts of our soul (thinking, feeling, choosing) and spirit. How does this help us know what the Philippians meant to Paul? Have you felt you held someone in your heart this way?
3. Paul wants the Philippians to know they are partakers, literally all wrapped up, in grace. Why was that important to Paul? **Read John 1:17 and Titus 2:11.** What do these verses add to Paul’s point?
4. **Read Ephesians 3:1.** How does this verse broaden our understanding of Paul’s love for the Philippians? How would you feel if someone was doing this for you or for your church? Explain.
5. In Philippians 1:8, Paul called God as witness to how much he missed the Philippians. Why might Paul do that here? Does this verse teach us something about our relationship with God and prayer?
6. Paul’s yearning for the Philippians was at the gut level. This was amazing because Jews loathed Gentiles. But through God’s grace and

the transformative love of Jesus, a relationship that would have been nonexistent, is now one of the deepest because of the spiritual connection between them. How might our relationships deepen if the spiritual was incorporated as the foundational component?

7. If every Christian relationship has the capability to be deep like Paul and the Philippians, why do you think many are not? Based on the sermon, what could cause a lack of depth?
8. Relationships involve two parties. Each party is responsible for their part. The most depth possible occurs when both parties are depending on God and living from their spirit indwelt by the Holy Spirit (a spirit-to-spirit relationship). What ways might we seek to live our part regardless of what others do (a spirit-to-flesh relationship)? What things have we thought was our part that isn’t? Things that are ok for us to stop doing and trust to God.
9. **Read Philippians 1:7-8 again.** What qualities from these verses describe what spirit-to-spirit relationships look like?
10. What other qualities might be found in spirit-to-spirit relationships? **Look at Galatians 6:14-15** for an example. Do these qualities form a list we have to try to do? If no, how do they come about in our lives?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: Christian relationships have the most depth because God’s grace holds them together and they’re overflowing with Christ’s love.** It’s probably not a reach to say we desire all our relationships to be like this and to have a spiritual foundation that functions spirit-to-spirit. It’s not always possible since each person has a part to play. But if this study showed you ways you personally can grow, or would like to grow, just talk to Jesus about it today. Review your answers to the questions with Him and let Him lead you. He doesn’t offer you condemnation in any growth area, just a deeper and fuller walk with Him, where your joy can overflow.

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

In 2025, Dove Medical nurses eagerly performed pregnancy tests and ultrasounds. The ultrasounds provided many opportunities for women in our community to see the baby growing inside their womb and choose life. One woman said, “For me it was the moment I saw him on the ultrasound. It was definite. There was a heartbeat. It’s real.” Unfortunately, reports coming out on abortions from the abortion pill (or chemical abortion) continue to rise. In Oregon in 2023, 70% of pregnancy terminations came from the abortion pill. We know God can change the statistics in 2026! Pray that God grants Dove Medical, and every pregnancy center, wisdom in reaching and serving women seeking an abortion and especially chemical abortion. Pray they will be successful in reaching them through Google, social media, or personal references. Lastly, pray that God would move supernaturally in the hearts of women and men to encourage them to choose life. (From Dove’s March 2026 Newsletter and the April 2026 LINK Letter.)

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