

# PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In  
The Lord!

# Thanks for the Partnership

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Lesson Two

# Philippians

## Rejoice In The Lord!

**Lesson Goal:** To introduce the three major themes of Philippians.

**Scriptures:** Philippians 1:3-5

**For Memory:** “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all.” Philippians 1:3

### Thanks for the Partnership

In these three verses, Paul introduces three very important themes. He is writing to express his gratitude for all the good things that the church in Philippi has done for him. So, thanks is the first theme. He tells them that he prays with joy for them. So joy is the second theme. He calls them partners in the Gospel. (In the New International Version, the translation is “participation in the Gospel.”) So, partnership is the third theme.

As mentioned in our first lesson, the church at Philippi was very good to Paul in several ways. When he wrote this letter, he begins with his expression of thanks.

Giving thanks is a major theme in the whole Bible. When God rescued the Hebrews from Egypt, they sang a song of praise and thanksgiving. (Exodus 15) I Samuel 2 records the song of thanksgiving sung by Hannah after her son, Samuel, was born. When King Artaxerxes (Are-tuh-ZERK-sees) sent the people of Israel home from captivity, they rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem. Nehemiah created two choirs who sang songs of thanksgiving to God for His blessing on them. (Nehemiah 12:31ff) The Psalms are full of thanksgiving. The 116th Psalm is one example. The poet who wrote the words of the song was rescued from certain death. He is thanking God for his life and promising God that he will praise Him in front of all the people. It is not only in this letter that we find Paul saying thank you. He thanked God for the Romans whose faith was known world-wide. (Romans 1:8)

There is an attitude of gratitude. It is a gift from God. Paul had that attitude. Here he links remembrance with gratitude. Are there people in your life that, when you think of them, you just want to thank God for them?

Beverly had to move to a new city because her father was transferred by his employer. Beverly had many friends in her old city and missed them. There was one special friend, Denesia. Denesia was always fun to be with and was always there for Beverly, even in the difficult times. When Beverly thought of Denesia, she always smiled. She remembered the fun times they had. She remembered that she could always depend on Denesia to take her side and be her best friend. She was so thankful that Denesia had been in her life and shared those good times together.\*\*

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It was kind of like that with Paul and the church at Philippi. That is what he is saying in the third verse.

Then he tells them that he prays for them with joy. Joy is a deep inner feeling that does not change with circumstances. We will be talking a lot about joy in this series of lessons, because it is the greatest theme in the Philippians letter. For now, we see Paul expressing joy in his ability to pray for them.

The other theme in the letter is partnership. Paul is very grateful for the partnership he has with the people in the church at Philippi. They are true partners in that they pray for him, they are concerned about him, they help him financially, and they help others, about whom Paul is concerned. They aren't just talking about their faith, they are doing something about it.

What a great opportunity we have to be partners with one another and with God to do His work on earth!

\*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

\*\*Stories in these lessons are original with the author. The teacher should feel free to enlarge or change the story to be more appropriate to his or her purposes.



### Teaching Tips:

1. In preparation for this lesson, it will be well for the teacher to spend time with Biblical concepts of joy and partnership. Jesus calls us to be His partners in the Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20 and in Luke 9:23-26.
2. Songs that emphasize Christian fellowship, rejoicing, and thanksgiving will be appropriate.
3. Pray with your students, thanking God for joy that transcends our circumstances.
4. Encourage students to think about friends and family members who bring them joy and encourage them to pray for those persons.
5. Spend a little time talking about what true partnership is. Emphasizing what is alluded to in Teaching Tip number one should be helpful.

# Philippians

## Rejoice In The Lord!

### *Student Worksheet*

**For Memory:** “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all.” Philippians 1:3

### **Thanks for the Partnership**

=In these three verses, Paul introduces \_\_\_\_\_ very important themes. Thanks is the \_\_\_\_\_ theme. \_\_\_\_\_ is the second theme. \_\_\_\_\_ is the third theme.

=Giving thanks is a major theme in the whole \_\_\_\_\_.

=Joy is a deep inner feeling that doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ with circumstances.

=Paul is very grateful for the \_\_\_\_\_ he has with the people in the church at Philippi. They are \_\_\_\_\_ partners in that they \_\_\_\_\_ for him, they are concerned about him, they \_\_\_\_\_ him financially, and they help \_\_\_\_\_, about whom Paul is concerned.

=They aren't just talking about their \_\_\_\_\_, they are \_\_\_\_\_ something about it.

=We have a great opportunity to be \_\_\_\_\_ with one another and with \_\_\_\_\_ to do His work on earth

### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.