

PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In
The Lord!

Generosity

Lesson Forty-Six

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

Lesson Goal: To remind students that joy comes from giving.

Scriptures: Philippians 4:14-16

For Memory: “It was good of you to share with me in my troubles.”
Philippians 4:14

Generosity

Generosity is a big word for unselfish giving.* The Apostle Paul, as we have said in previous lessons, had many needs. He traveled all over the Roman empire looking for opportunities to tell people about Jesus, most of the time at his own expense. He had, at times, depended on his tent-making trade to provide for his needs. That, however, took time that he wanted to devote to preaching and teaching.

He had, as we have discovered, started the church in Philippi, and they loved him and wanted to be part of his ministry. Paul points out, in our Scripture verses for today, some of the times they had come to his aid. The Bible records numerous times that they sent financial support. There may be other times not recorded.

Paul calls it sharing in his “troubles.” He was in prison, without income, totally dependent on what the Roman soldiers were willing to give him. You can imagine the terrible way prisoners were treated in Paul’s day. This would especially be true of someone who was condemned to die, as was Paul. Talk about trouble; Paul had it.

The Philippians knew that Paul could not repay them, and the fact that he was soon to die meant that the offering, and the helper they sent to be with him, was simply a generous act of love.

Paul tells them that he hasn’t forgotten all the other times they have been generous. He says that even when no other congregation of Christians was willing to support him, the Philippians had come through.

We have no information to tell us that Paul ever asked for help. As a matter of fact, as we shall see in our next lesson, Paul tells them that he was not looking for a gift. It is obvious that someone told the Philippians about Paul’s condition in Rome, but it wasn’t Paul. As we saw in our last lesson, Paul was determined to be content in any circumstance.

Actually, what we have here is practical proof of the love of the Philippian church. Paul was a special person to them. They owed Paul for the knowledge of Jesus that had brought them salvation. They were Christians because of Paul. And, even if they had not seen him for a long time, they wanted him to know of their love.

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

It is normal to want to give something to someone you love. Boys give gifts to their girlfriends that make them feel special. Girls give gifts to their boyfriends that make them feel respected. It tells the person you love that you are thinking about them and that you want them to feel good.

Paul's great gift to the people in Philippi was his testimony. He urged them to accept the greatest gift of all. God's great gift to humans was Jesus. Jesus came from Heaven, lived here on earth as a human, died, not for His sins but for ours, rose from the dead to prove His power over death, and ascended back to Heaven to sit with God, the Father, and speak to God for you.

You, too, can receive this gift...God's generosity...by saying to God, "I believe that Jesus is your Son. I accept your generous sacrifice for my sin and ask your forgiveness for all my sin; I invite you to be the Lord of my life." When you have done that, God's gift is yours personally. All because He loves you.

We show our love to God by giving our lives, our service, and our money to 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.



Teaching Tips:

1. This might be a good time to go back and review Acts, chapters sixteen and seventeen, reading how Paul preached the Gospel in Philippi and then moved on to Thessalonica. The Philippians sent Paul financial support in Thessalonica.
2. Paul's philosophy of financial support is the subject addressed in chapter eleven of II Corinthians. (II Corinthians 11:7-12) There he told the church at Corinth that he would not accept any gift or help.
3. Songs about God's love, giving, helping people who have special needs, serving God, and loving others are appropriate with this lesson.
4. Pray with your students: Thank God for giving us joy. Thank God for giving Jesus to be our Savior. Thank God for generous people who give their money, time, and talents to God's Kingdom. Ask God to help us to be generous.
5. You might ask your students to name some "troubles" their friends might have. Ask them how they can help those people in trouble.

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

Student Worksheet

For Memory: "It was good of you to share with me in my troubles."
Philippians 4:14

Generosity

=Generosity is a big word for unselfish _____.

=Paul calls it sharing in his "_____." He was in prison, without income, totally dependent on what the _____ soldiers were willing to give him. You can imagine the terrible way prisoners were _____ in Paul's day.

=Someone told the Philippians about Paul's _____ in Rome, but it wasn't Paul.

Paul was determined to be content in any _____.

=Paul's great _____ to the people in Philippi was his testimony. He urged them to accept the greatest _____ of all. God's great gift to humans was Jesus. _____ came from Heaven, _____ here on earth as a human; _____, not for His sins but for ours, _____ from the dead to prove His power over death, and _____ back to Heaven to sit with God, the _____, and speak to God for _____.

=You can receive this gift...God's generosity...by saying to God, "I _____ that Jesus is your _____. I _____ your generous sacrifice for my sin and ask your forgiveness for all my _____; I invite you to be the _____ of my life."

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 determined to live for him all the rest of your life.