

PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In
The Lord!

God Knows Our Needs

Lesson Forty-Seven

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

Lesson Goal: To remind students that joy comes from giving, and God gives best.

Scriptures: Philippians 4:17-19

For Memory: “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

God Knows Our Needs

Earlier in this chapter Paul assured the Philippians that he had all he needed. He placed his full faith in God, and God provided. Does that mean that he ate the best food in Rome, lived in a very nice house, ran with the “in crowd,” and could party any time he wanted to? No, absolutely not!

Actually, as we have said since the very beginning of our study in Philippians, he was a prisoner when he wrote this letter to the church at Philippi. Most think that he was actually not in a prison, but in a house, chained to a Roman soldier. His food and other necessities were not the best, probably only what he needed to survive.

Now, Paul wants to share this confidence in God. He wants the Philippians to know that they also are loved by God and that God looks on them with the same compassion that He did with Paul.* He introduced this thought with reference to their gift. He said that he was not looking for a gift. He had what he needed.

However, he was very pleased with the gift because of what it did for them, the Philippians. Now, that is just strange. The gift is supposed to be good for the person to whom it is given...not the one giving. At least that is the way we usually think. But Paul is not thinking like humans normally think. His thoughts, as usual, were for the Philippians. He was pleased that they were imitating God in their unselfish willingness to give.

Paul knew that there would be a special feeling of accomplishment...of doing well, when the Philippians received his letter of thanks. It is that way anytime a Christian does good deeds in Jesus' name.

It is wrong for us to do something just to have the good feeling that comes from being kind and generous. However, God blesses us with that good feeling when we see Him using our gift to bless someone else. You see, our giving to others, in Jesus' name, pleases God, and is a special gift to God.

Paul said that the gifts given him by the church at Philippi were “fragrant.” They were an “offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.” This refers back to the Old Testament, when the people gave burnt offerings to God. The offering, because

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it was done as God instructed, made a really good scent, or smell. Paul was telling them that what they had done for him was like the offering in the Old Testament. God was very pleased with their gifts and the gifts “smelled” really good to God...they made God very happy.

And, the wonderful promise given here, by the Apostle Paul, is that God was going to treat them as well as He was treating Paul. He had said that all his needs were met. He had all he needed...the basics were available to him. Now, he was promising that God would see to it that these folks at Philippi would have all the basics. Their needs would be met.

That promise holds true today for Christians. God is ready to supply all your needs. It is good to remember that Paul, in speaking about his needs being met, was right where God wanted him to be and doing what God wanted him to do. He was implying the same for the Philippians when he said that their behavior...their generosity...was pleasing to God.

When we are where God wants us to be, doing what God wants us to do, He is going to see that all our needs are met, through Jesus. God owns it all, and Jesus, His son, has access to it all and can give to us from all that wealth. God does supply our needs!

*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. For a better understanding of the sacrifice, and its sweet smell, check out Genesis 8:20, 21 and Leviticus 1:9, 13, 17.
2. You might also want to refer back to Philippians 2:17, 18 and Paul’s wish to simply be poured out on the offering of their service. He would be pleased with his ministry if it were only that.
3. Songs about God’s love, giving, helping people, loving others, gratitude to God for His love for us and His caring for our needs are appropriate with this lesson.
4. Pray with your students: Thank God for giving us joy. Thank God for the opportunities to serve Him by serving others. Thank Him for taking care of our needs. Ask Him to show us our true needs and walk with us as we meet the needs of others.
5. Give your students opportunity to talk about what they can do to help others meet their needs. You might ask, “What are our basic needs?”

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Student Worksheet

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=Paul wants to share his confidence in _____. He wants the Philippians to know that they also are _____ by God and that God looks on them with the same compassion that He did with _____.

=His _____, as usual, were for the Philippians. He was pleased that they were _____ God in their unselfish willingness to _____.

=God blesses us with that good _____ when we see Him using our _____ to bless someone else. You see, our _____ to others, in _____ name, pleases God and is a special _____ to God.

=Paul was telling them that what they had done for him was like the _____ in the Old Testament. God was very pleased with their _____, and the gifts “smelled” really good to God...they made God very _____.

=He had all he needed...the _____ were available to him. Now, he was promising that God would see to it that these folks at Philippi would have all the _____.

=When we are _____ God wants us to be, _____ what God wants us to do, He is going to see that all our needs are met, through _____.

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.