

# PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In  
The Lord!

## Grand Finale

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Lesson Forty-Eight

# **Philippians**

## **Rejoice In The Lord!**

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**Page 2 of 4**

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**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to remember all the good things said to the church at Philippi.

**Scriptures:** Philippians 4:20-23

**For Memory:** “To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever.” Philippians 4:20

### **Grand Finale**

The choice of title for this lesson is easy. A grand finale in a musical composition may restate the theme and/or add strong final notes. What we most think of as the grand finale is loud and full. The audience is most often so quiet for a few seconds at the end of the finale, you can hear a pin drop. Then, the applause begins.

Paul ends Philippians with a strong statement about God and His Son, Jesus. He has been encouraging the church at Philippi to rejoice. He has given them many, many reasons to be joyful. Now, he brings in the full orchestra...the big finish.

He prays, “To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Just think of all the things he has told the Philippians for which they can be grateful and praise God. In chapter one, he spoke of gratitude for their partnership, of God’s perfect work in believers, of God’s gift of maturity for Christians, of Christian courage, of the opportunity to live like Kingdom citizens, of courageous teamwork, and of the privilege to suffer as Christians.

In chapter two he spoke of God’s choice to bring Christians together for His purpose; encouraged them, and us, to have the “mind of Christ;” was very specific in explaining who Jesus was; reminded them that salvation is a process and God was with them every step of the way; explained how they could join God in His work of salvation; and encouraged them to be “trusted helpers.”

In the third chapter, he urged the church to know the real meaning of fellowship with Christ, to move forward in their faith and in their Christian service; to stand firm.

In chapter four the Philippians are expected to live up to God’s calling and be strong in their faith; to confide in God; live like Jesus and experience the peace of God; be content; find true joy in giving and remember that God gives best.

When we look at that long list, we, too, should be saying, to God be glory forever! What wonderful things God has done, is doing, and will do for us! Can you believe it? God not only did all that for the church at Philippi, but also for you and me.

# Philippians

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Then, Paul proves himself to be the gracious missionary and teacher that God called him to be. He wants to be remembered to all the saints. We have said that saints, when Paul uses it like this, means all the Christians. Paul addressed this letter “To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi.” Now, he affirms the intent that all the believers in Philippi get the message of the letter.

Then, he forwards greetings from “All the saints” in Rome, “especially those who belong to Caesar’s household.” Most think that this means that Paul has brought many of the servants and soldiers in Cesar’s palace to faith in Jesus.

He ends this grand finale with a wonderful prayer. “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.” The Christians at Philippi had sent Paul gifts, including someone who would serve Paul in any way necessary. They were generous. Paul has only one gift to give these dear friends. He sends his prayer and his blessing.

As we end this study of this beautiful letter of Paul, we should be reminded that the greatest gift we can give anyone is our blessing. Paul was praying for them to be blessed of God. He is telling them that he speaks to God on their behalf and asks God to do good for them. Be encouraged by this, Paul’s special prayer for the church, to follow his example and bless others.

\*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. You may want to look at some other “grand finales” of Paul. Check out Colossians 4:16-18; I Thessalonians 5:23-28; II Thessalonians 3:16-18, and especially Romans 16:25-27.
2. You might also want to compare the number of times Paul says that he is praying that the “grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be *with your spirit*.” Note that spirit is singular. Even in the final words Paul encourages unity.
3. Songs about God’s love, helping people, loving others, our opportunity to witness and pray are appropriate with this lesson.
4. Pray with your students: Thank God for giving joy. Thank God for the opportunities to serve Him by serving others. Ask Him to show us our true needs and walk with us as we meet the needs of others. Thank Him for Paul and the other Bible writers from whom we learn the truth about God and His will for us.
5. You might ask your students what they have learned from the study of Philippians.

# Philippians

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### *Student Worksheet*

Lesson Forty-Eight

Page 4 of 4

**For Memory:** “To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever.” Philippians 4:20

### Grand Finale

=Paul ends Philippians with a strong statement about God and His Son, \_\_\_\_\_. He has been encouraging the church at Philippi to \_\_\_\_\_. He has given them many, many reasons to be \_\_\_\_\_. Now, he brings in the big \_\_\_\_\_

=In chapter two he spoke of God’s choice to bring Christians together for His \_\_\_\_\_; encouraged them, and us, to have the “\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ;” was very specific in explaining who Jesus was; reminded them that \_\_\_\_\_ is a process and God was with them every step of the way; explained how they could join God in His \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation; and encouraged them to be “trusted \_\_\_\_\_.”

=In the third chapter, he urged the church to know the real meaning of \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ, to move forward in their \_\_\_\_\_ and in their Christian service; to stand firm.

=In chapter four the Philippians are expected to live up to God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and be strong in their \_\_\_\_\_; to confide in God; live like Jesus and experience the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; be content; find true joy in \_\_\_\_\_ and remember that God gives \_\_\_\_\_.

=He ends this grand finale with a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_. “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your \_\_\_\_\_. Amen.”

### 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.