



PARTNERSHIP

DAILY DEVOTIONAL | FRIDAY 11/13

MEMORY VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 1:4-6

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

READING CHALLENGE

Read the book of Philippians each day this week! (It is only 4 chapters and will take less than 15 minutes!)

PERSONAL REFLECTION

You have spent this week reading the book of Philippians. We have encouraged you to do this because these are Paul's personal words to a group of people that he considered true partners in the gospel. These are not just abstract words of exhortation, but words of encouragement to people that he knew and loved. You can hear Paul's heart throughout the book in ways that we don't often hear in his other epistles. These are people who came to know Christ because of Paul's willingness to reach out to them, and they, in turn, reached out with true care for him and his work.

- Who has been a Paul in your life? Who has reached out to you, helped you grow, and continued to engage and encourage?
- How have you/can you partner with them by giving care and encouragement in return?

As you read Philippians once more today, pay attention to the big-picture themes and ideas.

- What seems to be Paul's greatest concern in this book?
- If you had to summarize the message of Philippians in a couple sentences, what would you say?
- How does Jesus himself fit into the big themes that Paul writes about (joy, maturity, unity, suffering, etc)?
- Spend some time today and tomorrow praying over this year's Commitment Card. Pray for God's leading and direction in your commitments to partnership.

OPTIONAL—GOING DEEPER:

Though we often study it in pieces, the book of Philippians was a personal letter from Paul to his friends in Philippi. The letter was carried by courier and would have been read out loud to the entire group when they gathered for worship. Take the time, by yourself, with your family, or with your small group to read the book of Philippians out loud in one go. Does anything stand out to you after hearing it out loud?

GROUP DISCUSSION

In Heather's devotional video, she talked about LifeWay's commitment to partnership. As a family or a group, discuss your own commitment to partnership.

- Which aspect of partnership was most impactful to you this week? How do you think God wants you to grow in that area? How are you excited or nervous about that?
- How do you think our family or group could grow in partnership? How could we encourage one another as individuals, and how could we engage in partnership as a group?

In the video, Heather talked about growing as disciples who make disciples inside the walls and going outside the walls of LifeWay to serve and share Jesus.

- How well is our group/family helping one another truly grow as disciples? What might we want to adjust or do differently toward that goal?
- How well is our discipleship leading us outside the walls of our home and church to reach those who don't know Jesus? How can partnership help us grow in this?
- If people feel comfortable, have them share one or two of the things they are committing to this year, and why.
- Pray together for growth in partnership and engagement as individuals, as a group/family, and as a church. Pray that we would experience the joy and fullness of partnership in the gospel!