



PARTNERSHIP

DAILY DEVOTIONAL | THURSDAY 11/12

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

As Paul writes to his friends in Philippi, he encourages them to endure suffering, to live in a way that is worthy of Christ, and to be loving and unified for the sake of the gospel. In chapter two, Paul grounds all of this in the example of Christ. He notes Jesus' shocking humility and says, "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Jesus Christ..." (2:5).

- Who in your life makes you feel consistently valued by putting your interests above their own?

As you read Philippians today, pay attention to all the people that he mentions by name who partnered by going with him. Note how he describes them and their attitudes or actions. Once again, this willingness to go, to sacrifice, to struggle, and to serve is grounded in the mindset of Christ (2:1-8).

- What does Jesus' mindset affirm about your value? About the value of others?
- What difference does it make to you that Jesus *chose* his path, it wasn't forced on him?
- How difficult is it for you to see yourself as a servant? How would embracing that part of your identity in Christ change your goals or the way you interact with people in your daily life? How would it affect your desire to do the work of going and bringing the gospel to others?
- Spend some time looking over the Partner in Going section of this year's Commitment Card. Pray for God's leading in how he might be calling you to go this year.

OPTIONAL—GOING DEEPER: If you are able, take some time to use the ancient spiritual practice of Lectio Divina with Philippians 2:5-11.

- **Lectio (read):** Remove all distractions and quiet your mind before God. Read the passage three times slowly. If you can, read it out loud to yourself. Let the message sink in. Find one verse or phrase that stands out to you the most. Re-read it a couple more times, placing emphasis on different words as you read.
- **Meditatio (meditate):** Think about the phrase or verse that stood out to you. What does it mean? What does it say about God? Humans? How does it contribute to the big idea of Philippians that God has been teaching you?
- **Oratio (pray):** Pray through your verse or phrase. Ask God to show you what he's saying through this verse. Take the verse and turn it into a prayer.
- **Contemplatio (contemplate):** Now that you have read, thought, and prayed through the text, finish off your time in silence. Ask God to speak to you. Pray that he would show you one practical thing you could apply to your life from this passage. Then listen. Write down what he says and then do it.

**borrowed from Jo Saxton's study on the book of Philippians on RightNow Media.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

In Heather's devotional video, she talked about partnering in going. As a family or a group, discuss how and where God might be calling you to go.

- What attitude(s) are necessary to motivate you to go to others with the good news of Jesus, whether you go to those nearby or those across the world?
- Who do you know that needs to know about Jesus? What barriers need to be crossed to reach them?

In the video, Heather said, "A lot of times, going involves doing things that are inconvenient or uncomfortable. It takes being proactive, interested, sometimes even sacrificial in how we use our time, energy, and resources."

- How might God be calling you as a family or group to grow in reaching out to others even when it is inconvenient or uncomfortable? Who has he placed on your heart and mind? Is there something you can do or someone you can serve together?
- Spend some time praying together about your mindset. Use Philippians 2 as a prayer guide. Then brainstorm ideas for people that your family or group could "go" to during this holiday season.