

# Lesson 1

## Rejoicing in Relationships, Prayer and Circumstances

### Philippians 1:1-26

Take some time to slowly read through the first chapter of Philippians every day this week, asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your thinking and to speak to you through this portion of the Word of God.

1. Look for a verse in the lesson this week that is meaningful to you and make it your memory verse. Write it down, carry it with you, put it on your refrigerator or mirror or dashboard and memorize it. Share your memory verse with your small group.

*“...Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.”*

*Philippians 1:18*

### Rejoicing in Relationships:

#### Philippians 1:1-2

2. How does Paul describe his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in Philippians 1:1?

3. Look up the following verses that describe the relationship between Paul and Timothy (Timitheus) and discuss.

❖ Acts 16:1-3, 18:5, 19:22 and 20:4

❖ Romans 16:21

❖ I Corinthians 4:17 and 16:10-11

❖ I Thessalonians 3:2, 3:6

❖ I Timothy 1:2, 1:18

❖ II Timothy 2:1-2

❖ Hebrews 13:23

The Greek word for bond-slave or servant in verse 1 is *doulos* and means one who gives himself up to another's will, devoted to another to the point of disregarding one's own interests.

4. According to Philippians 1:1, to whom is this epistle written?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Read Acts 16:6-15 to get the background of the founding of the church at Philippi. Discuss what you learn about the beginning of Paul's relationship with the people there.

### **Rejoicing in Prayer: Philippians 1:3-11**

6. What does Paul do every time he thinks of the Philippians according to Philippians 1:3-5?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. According to Philippians 1:6, why did Paul have the confidence that the Philippians would persevere in their faith even while he was away from them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Describe and discuss Paul's relationship with the believers in Philippians according to Philippians 1:7-8, 2:19 and 2:23-24.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Philippians 1:9-11 gives Paul's prayer for the Philippians. Discuss how the four points of his prayer are still paramount for the spiritual growth of believers.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Thankfulness is one of the keys to finding the joy that Paul exudes in this letter. Can you think of someone that you are thankful for because they have influenced you for the Lord Jesus Christ? If possible you may want to encourage this person with a note or call.



19. In the light of the wonderful truth about what happens when a believer dies, how appropriate are crying and grieving at the death of a loved one? See John 11:25-36 and I Thessalonians 4:13-14.
  
20. Based on your study this week, what do you think God is teaching you or inviting you to do or be?