

Week 1: Introduction to Philippians

- **Passage:** Philippians 1:1–11
- **Theme:** Joyful Fellowship in the Gospel

Welcome!

Hey guys, welcome to *A Philippians Man!* I'm so pumped to kick this off with you. This study is all about becoming men who lead in our homes, communities, and churches while staying anchored in God's Word. Each week, we're going to dig into Paul's letter to the Philippians and discover how we can live with purpose and joy.

This week, we're starting with Philippians 1:1–11. These verses give us a beautiful picture of gratitude, joy, and prayer. Paul sets the stage for what it means to walk in fellowship with other believers and be confident in God's work in us.

Scripture Reading

'1. Paul's Greeting

Philippians 1:1–2

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Paul opens with a reminder of who he is—just a servant of Jesus—and gives a blessing of grace and peace. That's such a strong example for us as men. Leadership starts with humility and pointing others to God.

- **Think about this:** When people look at your life, do they see a humble servant? What's one way you can share God's grace and peace with someone this week?

2. Gratitude and Partnership

Philippians 1:3–8

I thank my God every time I remember you. 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. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

This part gets me. Paul's in prison, but his heart is so full of gratitude and joy because of his partnership with the Philippians. They were in this Gospel mission together, and he's confident that God is working in their lives.

- **Let's reflect:** Who are the people in your life you can count on as “partners” in faith? Take a second to thank God for them this week. Maybe even let them know how much they mean to you.

3. A Prayer for Growth

Philippians 1:9–11

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Paul's prayer here is so rich. He's asking for their love to grow deeper, not just in feeling, but in knowledge and wisdom. And he's praying that their lives would reflect God's righteousness. That's a challenge for us: How are we growing in love and discernment? Are we bearing fruit that points back to Jesus?

- **Ask yourself:** What's one area of your life where God might want you to grow right now—in love, wisdom, or righteousness?

What This Means for Us

1. Prayer Changes Everything

Paul prayed for his people constantly. What if we started praying like that for each other? Take a few minutes this week to pray for the guys in this group. Pray for their families, their faith, and their leadership.

2. Joyful Relationships

Paul found joy in the Philippians because they were on mission together. Let's lean into that kind of fellowship here. Encourage someone, share your thoughts, or even post a prayer request.

3. God's Got You

That promise in verse 6 hits hard: *He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.* God's not done with you yet, no matter where you're at. Hold onto that this week.

Weekly Challenge

1. **Pray for the Group:** Pick one or two guys and commit to praying for them every day this week.
2. **Encourage Someone:** Let someone in your life know how much you appreciate them—your wife, a friend, a mentor.
3. **Reflect:** What's one thing God is teaching you this week? Share it with the group or write it down.

Final Thought

Guys, this week is about gratitude, joy, and partnership. We're in this together as Philippians men, walking in faith and encouraging each other along the way. Let's commit to growing in love, praying for one another, and trusting God to finish what He's started in us.

Does this feel more like your natural voice? Anything else you'd like adjusted?