Small Groups

Fall Semester *2026*

CROSSROADS CHURCH
STATEN ISLAND



About Session 8:
Please Read:

Memory verse:
" Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:6-7)

We live in a divided and anxious age. Church members nurse grudges, friendships fracture over small offenses, and worry has become a way of life—even for believers who know better. We replay the offense, refresh the bad news, and wonder why peace feels so far away. We can even go as far as to justify judgmental thinking under the guise of a superficial spirituality. Yet the closing words of Philippians were not written from a quiet study but from a Roman prison cell. And what does a chained man talk about? Unity. Joy. Gentleness. Prayer. And a peace "which surpasses all understanding" (v. 7).

Philippians 4:2–9 begins with a problem: Euodia and Syntyche, two women who had *"labored side by side"* with Paul in the Gospel (v. 3), were at odds with each other—and the whole church knew it. Paul pleads with them to "agree in the Lord" (v. 2), then shows us the pathway to peace: rejoice in the Lord, let your gentleness be evident to everyone, trade anxiety for thankful prayer, fill your mind with what is excellent, and practice what you have learned. The promises bookend the passage: the peace of God will guard your heart and mind (v. 7), and the God of peace Himself will be with you (v. 9). Remember, we are called to pursue harmony in the church.



Before You Watch:
Discuss this statement: Peace is not the absence of conflict or trouble - it is the presence of God guarding you in that trouble.

Brief Overview | Philippians 4:2–9

Paul's closing counsel moves in a deliberate order: first our relationships, then our prayers, then our minds. Settle your differences, rejoice in the Lord, pray instead of worrying, think on what is excellent, and practice what you have learned — and the God of peace will be with you. Remember what we always say, spiritual maturity shows up in relationships!

.....Watch Video.....

1. Focusing on unity, joy, and gentleness in the Lord leads to peace (vv. 2–5)

*"I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. **3** Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. **4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. **5** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;*

2. Focusing on prayer and gratitude leads to peace (vv. 6–7)

***6** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

3. Focusing on God's targets leads to peace (vv. 8–9)

***8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **9** What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."*

Discussion Questions:

Question 1 (On Settling Our Differences): Why is unresolved conflict between believers so damaging? Is there a relationship where you need to take the first step toward agreement this week?

Question 2 (On Praying Instead of Worrying): What is one specific worry you keep replaying, and what would it look like this week to hand it to God in prayer — with thanksgiving — and leave it with Him?

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