

Small Groups

Fall Semester 2026



About Session 2:

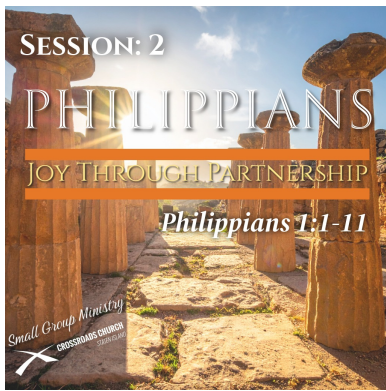
Please Read: —————→

Memory verse:

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion"
(Philippians 1:6)

When we think about the book of Philippians, one of the first things that stands out is how personal this letter feels. Paul isn't just writing to a church; he's writing to people he loves. The Philippian believers have participated in his ministry, supported him, prayed for him, and stood by him through difficult circumstances. Even though Paul is writing from prison, his thoughts immediately turn to the people who have been a blessing to him and the ministry. In the opening verses, we see what healthy Christian relationships should look like—relationships marked by gratitude, affection, partnership, and spiritual encouragement.

However, Paul doesn't simply thank them for what they've done in the past; he also expresses confidence in what God is continuing to do in their lives. He reminds them that God doesn't start a work in us only to leave it halfway through. *"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion"* (Philippians 1:6). Paul then prays that their love would continue to grow—not just as an emotion, but in knowledge, discernment, and spiritual maturity. As we begin this second session, we'll see that authentic Christianity isn't lived in isolation. God is growing us individually, but He also intends for us to grow together.



Before You Watch:

+ Joy is not determined by what is happening around me, but by what is happening within me.

+ Think about this question throughout the lesson: *What tends to have the greatest influence on my joy—my circumstances or my relationship with Christ?*

Brief Overview | Philippians 1:1–11

Paul begins his letter to the Philippians with a heartfelt greeting to the church he deeply loves. He established the church in Philippi roughly a decade earlier and now reflects on their faithfulness, partnership, and spiritual growth. Despite being separated from them and writing under challenging circumstances, the thought of them brings him genuine joy.

The passage transitions from describing who they are, to what they have accomplished, and finally to what God is continuing to do in their lives.

[Watch Video](#)

1. Joy Comes From Having a Humble Mindset — vv. 1–2

“This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God’s holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and deacons. 2 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

2. Faithfulness Produces Joy — vv. 3–6

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. 4 Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, 5 for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. 6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

3. Doing God's Work Leads to Joy — vv. 7–11

“So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. 8 God knows how much I love you and long for

you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. 10 For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. 11 May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.”

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What tends to have the greatest influence on my joy—my circumstances or my relationship with Christ?**
- 2. Why is having a humble mindset so important?**
- 3. Paul was in difficult circumstances, yet he was filled with joy. What does that tell us about where true Christian joy comes from?**
- 4. What are some things that can quietly steal your joy, even when your circumstances haven't changed?**