

Name: _____



JOY

Philippians

Weeks 9-12

Introduction to the *Joy* series.

One of the unmistakable signs of the presence of God in someone's life is Joy. So, a gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms. Christians should be people of joy. A joyful Christian is a good representative of the good news, the gospel to a world that is often joyless.

Are we the kind of church that brings joy to people here inside our church? Are we the type of church that brings joy to those in our community on the outside of our church? Both are good questions to ask.

Philip Cole
Smithville Campus Pastor

Introduction To The 4G Guide

GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our daily lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your life. This understanding through application enables you to take what you are learning and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the *Christian Standard Bible* (CSB Text Edition: 2020).



USING THE 4G GUIDE

Each week is divided into four sections:



Gathering Time

On Sunday mornings we gather to worship, hear God's message, and be challenged to apply His word. You'll find the weekly Gathering Time sermon outlines and notes sections in this booklet.

If you need to join us online, go to cbcfamily.net and click "Watch Live"



Group Time

We learn from one another! 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. Group Time outlines are simple enough for anyone to facilitate. In addition, short videos and other helpful resources are posted often on our 4G webpage.



God Times

Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we've provided five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once your God Time is finished, pray, seeking direction for the day.



Family Time

Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple Family Time devotionals. In addition, to help get the conversations flowing, video or story guide links will be posted on our 4G webpage.

cbcfamily.net/4g



Take an International Missions Trip... To Houston

While only two hours away, Houston is one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse cities in the country.

Join our partners **Global Gates** for a **two-night weekend mission or a half-day Temple-Tour**



Two-night Weekend Mission Dates:

(6 PM Friday – 3 PM Sunday)

September 15-17 or October 27-29

Half-day Temple Tour Dates:

(8:30 AM – 2 PM)

September 16 or October 28

Info meeting: Sunday, August 20, 4 PM Bastrop

Info & Registration: cbcfamily.net/missions

Wednesday Evenings are a “Thing”

**Awana
Clubs**

Kids:
4yrs old to Grade 6
@ Bastrop

STUDENTS
@ CALVARY

Bastrop &
Smithville

Adult Bible Studies
Co-Ed & Women’s Groups
@ Bastrop

*August 16 is off.

New season begins August 23 @ 6 PM

THE BRIDGE
YOUNG ADULTS

The Bridge is a gathering for Young Adults (post HS–30) to Grow their Faith through application-based Bible Study and Fellowship.

Thursday Nights at 7 pm

www.thebridgebastrop.com



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Philippians 3:4-11

But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

1 Peter 3:15

The _____ of an Effective _____:

Philippians 3:4-9

Putting _____ the _____.

The _____ of Jesus.

Philippians 3:7

The _____ of the _____.

Philippians 3:8-9

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Elements, Testimony / Away, Past / Presentation / Proclamation, Present



Group Time

◀◀ LOOK BACK:

1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 46 for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

3. Review last week's lesson.

With whom did you *boast in Christ* this past week? How did it go? What was their response?

LOOK UP:

Question: Each person gets three-minutes max to share:

- What was your life like before you met Jesus?
- How did you meet Jesus?
- What is your life like since meeting Jesus?

1. **Review your notes from the Gathering Time (Sermon).**
2. **Context:** As we continue in Paul's letter to the Philippians, he reminds them of his story (his testimony). Before his conversion on the road to Damascus (Acts 16), his religious credibility and zeal according to Jewish law and customs was beyond reproach. But when he met Jesus, all of that became worthless. What became valuable is "*knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*" It's now about knowing, being, and doing whatever Jesus is about and commands.
3. **Discussion:** Read Philippians 3:4-11.
 - What did Paul value before he met Jesus?
 - What happened to the value of those things after he met Jesus?

- What does he value now, as he writes to the Philippians?

▶▶ LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *If you have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, you have a story to tell.*

Let's look at your story. Your Story has three parts: your life before Jesus, how Jesus came into your life, and your life since then. (Video help is available at vimeo.com/419998882.)



1. Think of two words that describe your life before Jesus (ex: selfish and depressed) and put them into a sentence. (Be honest, the failures of your past give value to your present.)

There was a time in my life when _____

2. In 2-3 sentences, explain how Jesus came into your life.

But Jesus _____

3. Finally, think of two words that describe your life since then (ex: loving and growing) and put them into a sentence. How has your life been changed, what is different, how do you have joy?

Now I _____

Next, who needs to hear your story? Make a list of family, friends, and coworkers (use the contacts list on your phone). Pray over your list and ask God to place two persons specifically on your heart. Share your story with them this week and share what happens with your group next time you meet.

God Time Day 1: The Power of a Story



People connect with stories. Think about great storytellers such as C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, William Shakespeare, Steven Spielberg, and of course, Jesus Christ. One of the reasons why Jesus taught using parables (i.e., stories) is because stories can connect and unite people in unique and powerful ways. When we connect with a character, relate to their struggles, and see them overcoming adversity, we are inspired to believe, “I can do that too!” It’s a universal experience. Stories based upon real experiences become even more powerful because you are no longer connecting with a fictional character, but someone just like you.

So many people struggle with the fear of sharing their God story for one reason or another. Perhaps you feel your story is not good enough, doesn’t have enough excitement, or maybe you just feel unqualified to tell it to someone else.



Read 1 Peter 3:15.
But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

What holds you back from sharing your story?

For whatever might be holding you back, it is important to realize this: if you are a follower of Christ, you were once dead in your sin, but are now made alive in Christ. **THIS IS A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD.**

Paul shares his story (his testimony) in his letter to the Philippians. As we look at Paul’s testimony this week, we will be focusing on key elements that will help us understand how to share our own stories.



Look through the contacts list on your phone. Then pray and ask God to place two of the contacts specifically on your heart. Pray for them each day this week as God leads.

God Time Day 2: An Effective Testimony



Read Philippians 3:7.
But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ.

In fiction writing, a good story always includes what writers refer to as a character arc; this simply refers to establishing the character’s life before, and then the journey to become someone new.

Paul, in sharing his story, begins by talking about all the things he used to think were important, all the things he built his life upon, and how he has let those things go to pursue a life devoted to Christ.



Take some time to reflect: What things did you pursue or prioritize in the past? How have your priorities changed? Why did they change?

God Time Day 3: Put Away the Past



Paul lists all the things he once used to define himself:



Read Philippians 3:4b-6.
⁴ If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day; of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; regarding the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ regarding zeal, persecuting the church; regarding the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

By all accounts, Paul was a rockstar. His religious credibility and zeal according to Jewish law and customs was beyond reproach. Unfortunately, he was so good at following the rules and regulations that he missed the Messiah.

There was a time in your life, either before you gave your life to Christ or sometime during your journey, when you defined yourself, not according to the will of God. Whose expectations were you trying to meet? How did you feel about yourself then? How do you feel about that time now?



Have you asked Jesus for forgiveness?

God Time Day 4: Present Jesus



Paul was a righteous man by human standards. But, by God’s standards, Paul was a broken and selfish sinner who deserved to be condemned for his sins. This is the greatness of the gospel, that Jesus died for our sins, not because we earned it, but rather despite ourselves.



Read Philippians 3:8-9.
⁸ *More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith.*

Underline the phrase “surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus” in verse 8.



Circle the word “righteousness” in verse 9 (two times).

Paul began his story by telling what his life was like before Jesus. He shared his priorities, his purpose, and his identity. Now, having Christ as Lord in his life, Paul shares how his life has changed. The vain things he once pursued are no longer important. The righteousness he attempted to attain through his efforts was rendered pointless because of the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Paul doesn’t mention heaven or hell. He doesn’t mention some distant future afterlife. Having Christ in his life is of real value in the here and now. (Though salvation promises eternity with God, the goal is now; “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10)



Think about how Jesus has changed your priorities, your sense of purpose, and how you see the world.

How has your life changed with Christ in it?

God Time Day 5: Proclaim the Present



Go back and reread Philippians 3:8-9 from Day 4.

Some of Paul’s story includes some awful things (ex., persecuting Christians), and he does not shy away from talking about them. Why? Because Paul is overwhelmed with joy for how Jesus has transformed his life.

The same is true for us. We were once slaves to sin, but now have freedom in Christ. We were dead, now we are alive.



Let’s look at your story. Your Story has three parts; Your life before Jesus, how Jesus came into your life, and your life since then. (Help is available at vimeo.com/419998882.)



1. Think of two words that describe your life before Jesus (ex: selfish and depressed) and put them into a sentence. (Be honest, the failures of your past give value to your present.)

There was a time in my life that _____

2. In 2-3 sentences, explain how Jesus came into your life.

But Jesus _____

3. Finally, think of two words that describe your life since then (ex: loving and growing) and put them into a sentence. How has your life been changed, what is different, how do you have joy?

Now I _____



On Day 1, you began praying for two persons God placed on your heart. Share your story with them this week.

Then ask them, “Do you have a story like that?”

Family Time



Main Idea:
Righteousness



Key Verse: Philippians 3:10-11

¹⁰ My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, ¹¹ assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.



Picture it (or Pitcher it):

One of the greatest accomplishments in baseball is to pitch a perfect game. In the history of baseball, there have only been 24 pitchers that have ever thrown a perfect game. To pitch a perfect game a pitcher must get every single batter out at the plate, with no batters reaching even first base. That means no walks and no errors, and the pitcher can't hit a batter. Throwing a perfect game is so difficult that no pitcher has ever done it twice.

Following God's law is like pitching a perfect game, not just once but every day of your life. Just like one hit ruins a perfect game, so one sin ruins our standing before God.



Read:

Philippians 3:4-11



Talk About It:

Not only did Paul think all his good works were like garbage but he also knew that he could never be made righteous by obeying the law. One person might be better than another, but Paul knew that we all fall short of perfection. Obeying the law to get to God is like trying to jump across the Grand Canyon. Paul placed his hope in what Jesus did for him because he knew a person couldn't obey the law.

Jesus lived a perfect life for us and then died to take away our sins. When we believe in Jesus, His perfect righteousness is added to our account. This is like jumping into a helicopter and it takes you across the Grand Canyon to the other side. We can't get to God on our own by obeying the law, but we can get to the other side by placing our faith and hope in Jesus.



Ask:

- Why can't anyone get to heaven by obeying the law?
- If we can't become righteous by obeying the law, how can we get the righteousness we need to go to heaven?



Pray:

Dear God, I confess that I am a sinner who needs forgiveness from you. Thank you for dying on the cross for our sins. Without you doing that we would not have had a way to heaven. Help us to live each day in your righteousness. Amen.

