

## God Time Day 1: Love the Family of God



Like we discussed last week, Paul is sitting in prison while he writes a letter filled with joy to the Philippian Believers.

Read Philippians 1:3.



*I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you...*

Giving thanks is another way to increase our joy. God has designed us and called us to live in fellowship with others. When we live according to His design, He blesses us with joy.

Who are you in Christian fellowship with? List a few people or groups:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Be like Paul; thank God for every remembrance of them.

## God Time Day 2: Partners in the Gospel



Read Philippians 1:4-5.

<sup>4</sup>*always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer*  
<sup>5</sup>*because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...*

What is Paul doing? \_\_\_\_\_



Why? (Put it in your own words.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Philippians were partnering with Paul to spread the gospel message – the Good News that Jesus lived, died, was buried, and rose again to save us from the effects of sin and someday restore all creation. Their partnership brought him so much joy!

Together we Believers work to encourage and build up our siblings in the faith and share the gospel with pre-Christians. This shows love for God and others.



How are you being a partner in the gospel?

## God Time Day 3: Abundant Love



Read Philippians 1:9-10 (ESV).

<sup>9</sup>*And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment* <sup>10</sup>*so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...*

Write Paul's prayer in your own words, then pray that prayer for yourself and the people and groups you listed on Day 1.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Read John 13:34-35.

<sup>34</sup>*I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.* <sup>35</sup>*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

How are we supposed to love one another?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What does this show everyone?

Love is important. After all, it changed the world! (John 3:16) We want to receive love, but sometimes it is challenging to give it. There are people who push us to our limits, hurt us, are different from us, or are just hard for us to love for any number of reasons.

Think of someone who is hard for you to love. (Be honest with yourself and God.)

Go back and read the Galatians passage from Week 1 Day 4.

What is the first characteristic of having God's Spirit in us?

\_\_\_\_\_

When we draw nearer to God, the fruit of having Him in our lives grows bigger and sweeter. Spend time in heartfelt worship and obedience and watch Him grow your love.

## God Time Day 4: Attentive Love



Reread Philippians 1:9-10 (ESV).

*<sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment <sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...*

Yesterday, we focused on love that abounds more and more. Today, let's talk about the "knowledge and discernment" part.

Underline the "so that" statement in verse 10. (This tells us why Paul wanted their love to abound.)

The Bible tells us that love can increase with "knowledge and discernment." Yet, the world has the wrong opinion that love is purely a feeling or an emotion. That is an incomplete picture of love. While love is emotional, it is also an attentive commitment that involves the intellect. It involves knowledge and "depth of insight" (as the NIV translates it).

When we love with knowledge and discernment, looking to love like Christ Himself, we love with the selfless humility of Christ. We gain unity and overcome conflicts. (See Philippians 2:1-11.)

Oftentimes, we know the right thing to do but choose the wrong thing. But sometimes, we choose unChristlike behavior because we don't know what the Bible says. When we learn and base our behavior on Scripture, we will be "pure and blameless," looking more like Jesus.

Read these passages and make a note of what Christlike love looks like: Matthew 25:37-40; Luke 6:35 and 23:34a; John 13:12-14 and 15:13.

---

---



When haven't you shown Christlike love? Ask God to forgive you and show you a better response, and to give you strength to obey.

## God Time Day 5: A God-Glorifying Love



The love among Christian brothers and sisters is a love that should always increase, growing more and more abundant. It should also be the kind of love that is an attentive commitment that grows more and more in knowledge and discernment. This type of love is Christlike, and it glorifies God.



Read Philippians 1:9-10 from Day 4 and then verse 11 (NLT). *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.*

Fill-in-the-blanks. (Use these words in order: fruit, salvation, righteousness, glory, praise.)

Our love should be filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ shown through \_\_\_\_\_.

This will bring about the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Did you catch the "fruit" part? This relates to the moral characteristics Paul told us about in Galatians. (Week 1, Day 4) Love and righteous character come through Jesus Christ bringing glory and praise to God.

Loving others the way that Jesus does should never be for our own benefit. That would be a contradiction of ideas! If we truly love like Jesus, and demonstrate the righteous character He produces in us, it is for His glory and praise and not our own.



Read 1 Corinthians 10:31.

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.*

Choose three people you know who need love. Plan to show them Christ's love for His glory and praise.

Name & Plan:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_