

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](http://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](http://cbcfamily.net/4g)





Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 2:19-24

Three \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_:

A Difference-Maker is \_\_\_\_\_.

*Philippians 2:22-23*

A Difference-Maker is \_\_\_\_\_.

*Philippians 2:20-21*

*Matthew 16:25*

A Difference-Maker is \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Corinthians 4:17*

Horizontal lines for gathering notes.

Qualities, Difference-Maker / Dependable / Genuine / Faithful



**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.

How did you let your light shine this past week? In what way did you give your best to God's kingdom? Rejoice!

**LOOK UP:**

**Question:** What's the difference between "Phoning it in" and "Dialing it in?"

1. Review your notes from the Gathering Time (Sermon).
2. **Context:** In his letter to the Philippians, specifically at the end of chapter 2, Paul now turns his attention from encouragement to ministry. He would like to send Timothy to them, both so Timothy can encourage them, and so they can encourage Timothy. It is also a great opportunity for cross-pollination in facilitating a disciple-making-movement. At the same time, Paul gives a warning regarding those who may be like-minded in faith yet still operate from self-interest. Timothy, and the Philippians to whom Paul is writing, have so far proven their character and genuine acts of service in and to the faith.

3. Discussion:

Make a top-ten list of personal characteristics you would want someone to have that you will be working with side-by-side towards an important goal or project:

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

On a scale of 1-10, how important is it for them to be dependable:

- 1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10

On a scale of 1-10, how important is it for them to be genuine:

- 1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10

On a scale of 1-10, how important is it for them to be faithful:

- 1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10

Characteristics determine character. How do we measure characteristics?

\_\_\_\_\_

**LOOK FORWARD: Application**

**Point:** *Character matters. How we measure character matters.*

- How are you measuring up? What do you need to do to improve your dependability, genuineness, and/or faithfulness?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**God Time Day 1 - Who Brings You Joy?**



Think about that godly someone who brings you joy. What is it about them? Perhaps it's their smile or contagious attitude. Some people can bring us great joy!



Read Romans 15:13.  
<sup>36</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It isn't the person's power alone that brings us godly joy. It is God working through that person to lift our hearts and fill us with gladness.

Make a list of a few people who bring you joy. Thank God for using them.

Then pray that you can be like the verse above. Pray for God's help in bringing joy to someone else today.

**God Time Day 2 - Be a Difference-Maker**



Read Philippians 2:19-20a.  
<sup>19</sup>Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon so that I too may be encouraged by news about you. <sup>20</sup>For I have no one else like-minded...

In Philippians, Paul gives some examples of those who live Christ-like lives. He first lists himself as an example and now lists his young coworker, Timothy. Paul says they are *like-minded* in their faith.

Paul is writing this letter to the Philippian church from prison. It is a depressing situation. Yet Paul talks about joy 16 times in four short chapters. We can have joy even in pain and distress. Why? Because we have Jesus! When we have Him, we can make a difference in the lives of others.



How would you like to make a difference in the lives of others? If you could do anything to make a difference (dream big!), what would you do?

---



---

**God Time Day 3: Be Dependable**



People who are difference-makers have certain qualities that make them true, valuable, joy-bringing friends. We see these qualities in Paul's coworker, Timothy.



Read Philippians 2:22-24.  
<sup>22</sup> But you know his proven character, because he has served with me in the gospel ministry like a son with a father. <sup>23</sup>Therefore, I hope to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. <sup>24</sup>I am confident in the Lord that I myself will also come soon.



Circle the words "proven character."

Underline the words in verse 22 that describe how Timothy had proven his character.

What does Paul hope to do with Timothy because of this dependable character? (Verse 23)

Being dependable, or having proven character, is a great way to make a difference in others' lives. Paul could trust Timothy to go to Philippi, visit the Believers there, and then bring back a report of how the church was doing. Paul could count on Timothy! All of this would happen if the Lord willed it. Paul trusted it would. (See verse 24)



How dependable do you consider yourself?

Low	1	2	3	4	5	Highly
-----	---	---	---	---	---	--------

Assess and list what gets in the way of your dependability. (Sometimes this means being careful what you commit to in the first place.)

---



---

Talk to God about your past failures. Ask forgiveness and let it go. Strive to be more dependable in the future.

When others can trust you, you bring joy. You also reflect a trustworthy God!

God Time Day 4: Be Genuine



Timothy had a dependable character and was also genuine. He serves as a good example for us. Difference-makers should be genuine!



Read Philippians 2:20-21.

<sup>20</sup>For I have no one else like-minded who will genuinely care about your interests; <sup>21</sup>all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

In verse 20, what mindset do Paul and Timothy both have?

---

In verse 21, underline whose interests the others sought.

Put a box around the interests they should have sought.

Paul doesn't mention names, so we don't know who the self-centered people were. We know that he had trustworthy workers because he mentioned them in other places in the Bible. But at this point, for whatever reason, only Timothy was there to be counted on. And Timothy was genuine; he was the real deal. He had authentic faith.



Read Matthew 16:25.

*For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it.*

Read Philippians 1:21.

*For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

Reflect on these questions:

- o Do you think most people in the world believe Christians are genuine?
  - o How do we give ourselves a bad rap?
- 

Evaluate your genuineness by looking up these godly attributes: Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), actions of love (1 Corinthians 13), the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-16), and works of compassion (James 2:14-17).



Confess your failings and ask God to help you be like Jesus.

God Time Day 5: Be Faithful



There is a third characteristic of a difference-maker: faithfulness. Again, we see this quality in Timothy.



Read 1 Corinthians 4:17.

*This is why I have sent Timothy to you. He is my dearly loved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you about my ways in Christ Jesus, just as I teach everywhere in every church.*

The verse above is also written by Paul about Timothy. In this short passage, Paul tells the church at Corinth (and us) quite a bit about him.

Underline the second sentence in the verse, then circle the words "faithful child."

What was Timothy supposed to do when he got to Corinth? (Hint: the answer is in the third sentence)

---



---

Timothy was so faithful, Paul considered him like a son. They were so close that Timothy could go act on Paul's behalf. The church was new, they needed to know what being a Christian was all about. Timothy could stand in for Paul, reminding them about Paul's ways and teachings.



Look up the definitions of *faithfulness* and *dependability*.

How are they alike?

---

How are they different?

---

They are similar, and there is overlap, and Timothy expressed them both! So can you.



God can grow your faithfulness as you invest more into your relationship with Him. How will you invest and be faithful today?

## Family Time



**Main Idea:**  
**Being a Difference-Maker**

**Key Verse: Philippians 2:19-24**

<sup>19</sup> Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon so that I too may be encouraged by news about you. <sup>20</sup> For I have no one else like-minded who will genuinely care about your interests; <sup>21</sup> all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know his proven character, because he has served with me in the gospel ministry like a son with a father. <sup>23</sup> Therefore, I hope to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. <sup>24</sup> I am confident in the Lord that I myself will also come soon.

**Talk About it:**

A difference-maker is an ordinary person who accomplishes extraordinary things by creating positive change in his or her community and the lives of others. Difference-makers do not have to be famous. Difference-makers can be parents, coaches, or good friends. Qualities that can make someone a difference-maker include determination, leadership, teamwork, inspiration, courage, excellence, integrity, generosity, compassion, etc.

**Make it:**

Create *difference-maker medals* using the template on the next page and give them to difference-makers in your life!

On the medal, record the following information:

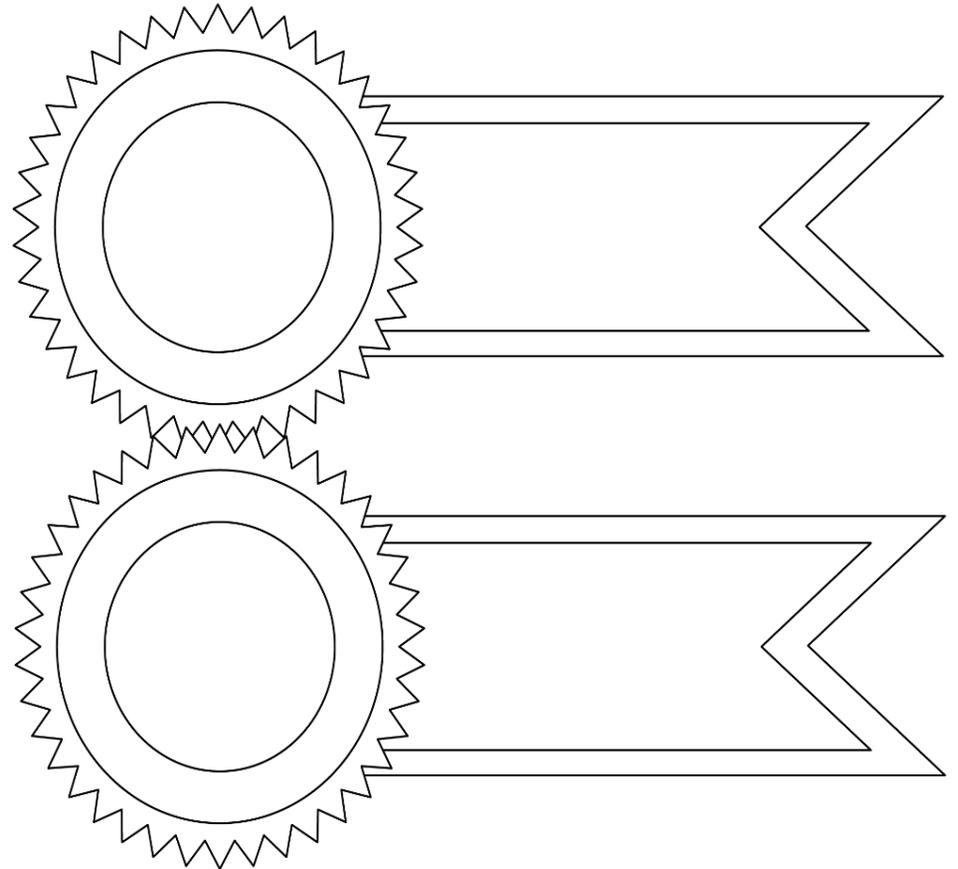
- The name of the person.

- The reason they are a difference-maker. (Example: My basketball coach is a difference-maker because she includes everyone on the team.)

**Read:** Philippians 2:19:24

**Discussion:** How was Timothy a difference-maker?

**Pray:** Lord, help me to be a difference-maker to the people I am around. Thank you for the people that you have put in my life that are difference makers to me. Amen.



# 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](http://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 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](http://www.thebridgebastrop.com)

