



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Philippians 1:27-30

How to Stay _____ Under _____.

Philippians 1:27-30

Our _____ Must Match Our _____.

Our _____ Must Be As _____.

Ecclesiastes 4:12

Our _____ Must Override Our _____.

Our _____ Must Be In _____.

2 Timothy 3:12

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Up, Attack / Walk, Words / Stand, One / Faith, Fear / Suffering, Service



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 last page for directions)

Y/N	Y/N	_____
_____	_____	

3. Review last week's lesson.

How did you do on the encouragement time above? Share what you heard from your partner with the group related to the last three items (Demonstrate/Declare/Disciple).

LOOK UP:

Question: When you get up in the morning, what's the first thing you do – that you have a choice to do? (And nothing to do with cheap sunglasses.)

1. Review your notes from the Gathering Time (Sermon).
2. **Context:** As we continue to look at Paul's letter to the Philippians, we see how passionate He is for them and their witness to the world. It would help us to review how he came to Philippi.

Read about it in Acts 16. Here are some highlights:

- Philippi is the first major city Paul encounters as a result of what is known as the "Macedonian Call."
- There is no synagogue in Philippi, so very few, if any Jews, and Paul must abandon his strategy of visiting the Jews first.
- Lydia, a leading businesswoman, and her whole household come to faith in Christ.
- Persecution comes, the Spirit moves, and a jailer and his whole household are saved.
- Arrest apologies are made, and Paul moves on.

Paul has a special love for the Philippians. They were the first city where people came to Christ with no Jewish heritage or backdrop. They walked through persecution with Paul and continued to support him, even while they also face persecution.

At the end of Philippians 1, in verses 27-30, Paul encourages the Philippian Believers to stand strong.

3. **Discussion:**

Have you ever experienced "bonding through adversity?" Maybe in sports, the military, or family circumstances? How did walking through adversity lead to an affinity with others?

Have you or someone you know experienced this because of adversity to their faith in Christ?

Read 2 Timothy 3:12.

We can face persecution because of Christ, and will face problems despite Christ. What's the difference?

In a society that is focused on comfort and individual rights, how could we push the envelope just a bit and get a taste of persecution, because of Christ?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *Suffering for the sake of the Gospel bonds us to Jesus.*

- What is one scary challenge God is asking you to complete? (E.g., Ask that neighbor if they need some help, share with that coworker why you have joy, take that homeless guy to lunch.)

Next week, share what happened.

God Time Day 1: How to Stay Up...



With all the media formats available today everyone can express their opinion on everything. What was built as opportunities to better communicate have become platforms for people to talk “at” one another and not “with” one another. The environment is like a verbal war zone with attacks around every corner. As Christians, we need to understand how to stay up when the attacks come.

Paul has been writing about how he maintained his faith during persecution, like being imprisoned for the Gospel. As we continue, Paul shifts to telling the Philippians how they can likewise maintain their faith amid struggles and persecution.



Read Philippians 1:27-30.

²⁷ *Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel,* ²⁸ *not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God.* ²⁹ *For it has been granted to you on Christ’s behalf not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,* ³⁰ *since you are engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I have.*

Paul outlines four pillars that our faith should be built upon.

Underline the word or phrase above related to each pillar:

1. Our Walk Must Match Our Words: *“Worthy of the Gospel”* (v.27)
2. Our Stand Must Be as One: *“One spirit”* (v.27)
3. Our Faith Must Override Our Fear: *“Not being frightened”* (v. 28)
4. Our Suffering Must Be in Service: *“Engaged in the same struggle”* (v. 30).



The rest of the week we will look closely at each one of these four pillars. Pray and prepare your heart to assess what pillars your faith is built upon.

God Time Day 2: Our Walk Must Match Our Words



A hypocrite is someone whose decisions, choices, and/or behaviors do not match what they say or claim to believe. We all know hypocrisy is bad, yet so many of us proclaim to stand for one thing, but our lives don’t seem to reflect it.

Christian author Brennan Manning said it this way:

“The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door, and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.”



Reread Philippians 1:27 from Day 1.



Circle *“citizens of heaven.”*

As our first pillar of faith, our walk must match our talk, especially when facing the attacks of the world. If we want a faith that can sustain us through difficult and trying times, that faith needs to be more than just “lip service,” it must be applied and impactful in our lives. We need to act like heaven is our home.

Here is a quick test to see if your faith is being put into practice: Is your life filled with love, forgiveness, compassion, kindness, peace, patience, and holiness?


Here are a few practical questions to help:

- Recall a time when godly love and compassion moved you to do something uncomfortable.
- Recall a time when you were facing difficulties in life, but you had an unexplained sense of peace.
- Have you ever known someone that “rubbed you the wrong way” but a spirit of peace allowed you to have patience with that person?



Is it easy or difficult for you to think of examples from your life? Why do you think that is?

God Time Day 3: Our Stand Must Be As One

 Reread Philippians 1:27 from Day 1. Circle “in one accord.”



Now, read Ecclesiastes 4:12.
And if someone overpowers one person, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

This scripture makes it clear that our faith is not to be lived out only in private, but also as part of a community. Throughout the Bible, we see this second pillar principle of standing as one. Yet, it is all too common for people to struggle alone in their faith. God’s intention and desire is for us to stand “together for the faith of the gospel.”

Pray today for God to show you two people who you can turn to for support in spiritual struggles, and who you, in turn, can also support. Write down their names below and speak to them this week about standing together in faith.

God Time Day 4: Our Faith Must Override Our Fear

 Reread Philippians 1:28 from Day 1. Circle “frightened.”

Fear can be good because it is a warning system that lets us know that we are behaving in a risky manner. But, if we allow fear to be the controlling factor in our behavior, then we never take any risks, which means we never grow. That’s called complacency. Rollercoasters and scary movies are popular because they allow people to face fear in a controlled environment – with little to no actual risk.


Building our third pillar, Paul encourages the Philippians to never allow fears of rejection or conflict to stop them from living a “life worthy of the Gospel of Christ.” (Verse 27)



What fears stop you from fully following Christ, expressing and sharing your faith as “a sign of your salvation?”

Which do you prefer: allowing fear to be in control, or allowing Christ to be in control?

God Time Day 5: Our Suffering Must Be In Service

 Reread Philippians 1:29-30 from Day 1. Circle the phrase “suffer for Him” in verse 29.

Some “Christians” never mention suffering for Christ – it’s not exactly a great selling point. But anyone who talks about following Christ and doesn’t mention suffering is lying.

How so, you ask?

Let’s see what Jesus said on the matter in Matthew 10:22.
You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Underline “endures.”

Suffering makes us stronger. When our faith is challenged, we learn where our faith may be weak and lacking in understanding. While we will never be complete in all knowledge and understanding, when we work to improve our weaknesses, our faith is made stronger.

But let’s be clear: Paul is not talking about just any kind of suffering or hardship. He is specifically talking about suffering for Christ – like when you are rejected for trying to share the Gospel, mocked for not embracing the sin of the world, or excluded because Jesus is Lord of your life.

Never allow a fear of suffering for Christ’s sake push you into a “silent faith.” Consider which would be more terrible: having someone reject you for your efforts to introduce them to Christ, or watching someone you care about walk a path towards destruction, knowing you did nothing to stop them?



Read Ezekial 3:18.
If I say to the wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ but you do not warn him—you don’t speak out to warn him about his wicked way in order to save his life—that wicked person will die for his iniquity. Yet I will hold you responsible for his blood.

With faith comes responsibility. Are you willing to build your faith on the fourth pillar of suffering to warn others?

Gospel Conversations is a starting point: cbcfamily.net/gc



Family Time

Main Idea:

Unity



Key Verse: Psalm 133:1 (ASV)

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.



Experiment:

You will need a 2-liter bottle, the cap for the bottle, a push pin, water, and an index card.

Fill the 2-liter bottle with water and cap it tightly. About 2 inches up from the bottom of the bottle, insert the push pin or thumb tack through the bottle.

Move to the right of this hole about 1/8th of an inch and insert the push pin again. Do it a third time, moving to the right another 1/8th of an inch. You should have a row of 3 tiny holes in the 2-liter bottle, but they will not be leaking water.

Loosen the cap and the water will start flowing from all three holes. Take your thumb and index finger up close to the bottle and “pinch” the 3 streams of water together. When you let go, they should make one stream instead of three. (You can also do this by grabbing the water streams in your fist.)

Is there anything you can do to separate the streams of water again? Try putting an index card or a small piece of plastic between the individual streams up close to the bottle. Pull it away to see what happens.



Ask:

- What caused the water to start flowing?
- How many streams of water did we begin with? How did they become one stream?
- Do you think we could have just thought about them becoming one stream and they would have?



Read:

Philippians 1:27-30.

Discussion:

What does it mean when it says, “*standing firm in one spirit*” or your version might say “*unity*”?

When we keep our thoughts, our attitudes, our goals, and our actions all focused on Jesus; then we can live in unity. When we get selfish and want our way or see other things as more important than the message of Jesus, then we have trouble living in unity.



Pray:

Lord, help us to have unity as a family. It can be easy to only think of ourselves, so help us think of others and their feelings. Amen