

Name: _____



JOY

Philippians

Weeks 13-16

4G Series - 2023 - cbcfamily.net/4g
Calvary Baptist Church
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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





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A PRAYER EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 4-5 PM
Bastrop Small Auditorium
cbcfamily.net/prayer
UP words
Prayer Team



Kids Fall Fun Festival (PreK – Grade 6)
Hosted by CBC Prime Timers
Games, Food, Crafts
Saturday, October 7, Bastrop



Sunday, October 15
3-5 PM, Smithville
Vision, Mission,
Membership, Service
Register today: cbcfamily.net/on-ramp



DEEP ROOTS & ABUNDANT FRUIT
2023 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14
cbcfamily.net/women



Save The Date!
ANNUAL CHURCH
Picnic
Sunday, October 22



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

Philippians 4:10-19

Luke 12:15

Philippians 4:10-19

Stay _____ to God's _____.

Stay _____ with God's _____.

Philippians 4:11-12

Hebrews 13:5-6

Stay _____ in God's _____.

Philippians 4:13

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

Connected, People / Content, Provision / Confident, Power



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.

What did you need to stop or start doing to dwell on the right principles and influence others in a right way?



LOOK UP:

Question: What is the difference between content and complacent? Can you be hard working and hard driving yet be either? Which is more likely to complain?

1. Review your Gathering Time sermon notes.
2. **Context:** As Paul wraps up his letter to his beloved Philippians, we see another reason for the closeness of their relationship. They've been supporting his ministry since he left Philippi, in good times and in bad. Paul lets them know that even without their support it would never have stopped him from doing his ministry. However, because of their support he's been able to accomplish so much more, and he appreciates them so dearly.

As much as he appreciates their support, their willingness to give will not go unnoticed by God. He will continue to bless them as He receives the glory of their giving.

3. Discussion

In the Christian world, what does it mean to be "called?"

- What does it mean on a macro level? Are all Christians called to one, or maybe just a few, common "calling(s)?"
- What does it mean on a micro level? What variety of specific things might Christians be called to do?

Read Philippians 4: 10-13. Whether called on a macro or micro level, how educated, trained, or prepared must one be before acting upon the call?

Have you ever made an "If only..." statement to God's calling?

Write some examples:

If only _____

If only _____

If only _____

If only _____

Read Philippians 4:19. How might "If only..." statements affect God's "glory?"



LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: *God is calling you to expand His kingdom. Say yes!*

- What is one thing God is calling you to do right now?
- How can you get started today?
- What will you need to do better? (Training, education, preparations, etc.)
- Read Matthew 28:18-20

God Time Day 1: When More Is Not Better

 Many Bible verses and other sayings make the point that more is not always better – even more of good things.

 Read Ecclesiastes 4:6.
Better one handful with rest than two handfuls with effort and a pursuit of the wind.

It is better to earn a handful and rest after a job well done than to pursue two handfuls wasting a substantial amount of time chasing the wind. We’ve all been there before; the pursuit of more is not always better. This week’s God Time sessions help us hold onto the truth and find joy in having just enough.

 Take time right now to give thanks for having enough, and more than enough. In a notebook, list several ways in which God has blessed you. Then spend some moments in praise.

Day 2: Connected to God’s People

 To avoiding being trapped in materialism we must remain deeply connected to God and His people – both by serving and being served. We were never meant to “do life” alone!

 Read Psalm 37:25-26.
²⁵ *I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous abandoned or his children begging for bread.*
²⁶ *He is always generous, always lending, and his children are a blessing.*

How has your support and service toward others been a blessing to you?

 How has the support of and service of others toward you been a blessing to you?

Be it giving or receiving, it affects you and those around you.

Day 3: Content with God’s Provision

 When our lives are dominated by the concern to stay ahead and obtain more stuff, it reveals our lack of trust in God’s promise to care for His children. On the other hand, when we do trust God, we learn to be content with just enough – as spoken in the Lord’s prayer: “Give us enough bread for today.”

 Read Luke 12:15.
He [Jesus] then told them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one’s life is not in the abundance of his possessions.”

Put this verse in your own words:

 Read Philippians 4:11-12, 19, ESV.
¹¹ *Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.* ¹² *I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. . . .* ¹⁹ *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

Underline what Paul has learned in verse 11.

Does it matter how little or how much he has of anything specific to keep him content?

 In your own words, write what Paul means in verse 19 and explain how it affects your ability to be content despite your circumstances:

Day 4: Confident in God's Power



One of the most popular Bible verses is Philippians 4:13:

I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.

But all too often people take the passage out of context and end up distorting its meaning. It soon is used to justify all kinds of false thinking and self-empowerment.



Reread Philippians 4:11-12 from Day 3.

When Paul claims, *"I am able to do all things,"* it is about his ability to be content – no matter the circumstances. This *"peace of God, which surpasses all understanding"* (v. 7) is an assurance that doesn't make any sense to someone who doesn't know and trust God. Such confidence only comes from knowing who God is and believing His promises to *"supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* (v. 19)

Jesus is our reason for peace and confidence in a broken world full of grief and danger. Despite all the mess, He can work amazing things through those who trust Him.

Is God providing something in your life that can only be explained because of who He is?

Like Paul, you should share that *"glory"* with someone today.

Who will you tell? _____

In his letter to the Ephesian church, Paul offers these words of praise regarding God's miraculous power to provide.



Read Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV.

²⁰*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*
²¹*to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*



Take time now to praise God for how He has already provided for you and to affirm your confidence that He will continue to provide for you.

And you can be His hands and feet, by providing for others.

Day 5: My Cup Overflows



One of the most famous scriptures about God's care for His people is the 23rd Psalm.

¹*The Lord is my shepherd; I have what I need.* ²*He lets me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters.*
³*He renews my life; he leads me along the right paths for his name's sake.* ⁴*Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.* ⁵*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*
⁶*Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I live.*

Which of the images of God as a Shepherd means the most to you and why?

Put into your own words the meaning of *"my cup overflows"* in verse 5.



Read Hebrews 13:5-6.

⁵*Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you.* ⁶*Therefore, we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"*

Notice the connection between *"free from the love of money"* and *"I will not be afraid."* These two phrases are just another way to show how confidence in God's goodness and power is the antidote to our efforts to try and secure our well-being on our own.



Pick a friend and share with them what God has given you and demonstrate to them how you are content with His provision. Afterward, write down your feelings about the experience in a notebook.

Family Time



Main Idea:
Contentment



Key Verse: Philippians 4:11-12

¹¹ I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. ¹² I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need.



Ask:

- What is something you would like, right now, as a gift?
- Where did you learn about this cool thing?



Read:

Philippians 3:4-11



Discuss:

There's nothing wrong with wanting cool things; Like toys, bikes, and clothes; But when we want things too much, it can lead to problems.

Contentment means learning how to get along happily with little or much. It's the “being full” feeling, instead of feeling empty. Can you think of a time when you felt this way?

Look up contentment in the dictionary and talk about what it means and how you can be content at home.



Activity:

Get a can of peaches or any other fruit, a can opener, bowls, and spoons. Pass around the can and call attention to the contents. It might say 24 ounces of peaches in the juice. Food products are required to have a description of the content on them.

Ask: What would you think if we opened this can of peaches and there were snails inside? Open the can. Ask: how would you feel if the can was half empty? Show that the can is full. We are content when we are full. When we focus on what we don't have we are not content. Spoon up the peaches into bowls and enjoy.



Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, help us to be satisfied with what we have, period, and not be running after the latest thing we think we must have. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The 3-Step "1-on-1 Encouragement" Process

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Partner-up: Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number three is okay but work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	1) Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week?	These are "Yes" or "No" questions.
	2) Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week – not just for meals?	Any hesitations or "Well..." responses are circled "No."
	3) Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the gospel with, or discipled. • If not, leave the line blank.
	4) Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?	
	5) Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week? (Ex: Sharing with others from any of the Gathering, God, Group, or Family Times)	

3. Each partner prays for the other: No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!

Taking a 4G Break

On behalf of the 4G Guide writing team, I want to thank you for utilizing this home-grown resource. Unfortunately, this will be the last of our guides for the foreseeable future. With changes in staff and preaching personnel, it is not currently feasible to keep publishing the Guides in their intended format.

On the plus side, we have nearly four years of 4G Guide material. Therefore, we will create an online library of past series available to download, or in print. Keep an eye out for the launch of our **4G Series Library**.

One of the advantages of the 4G Guide was how it kept our CBC family connected, focused, and on the same page. It is important for every one of us to now find ways to maintain connectivity and focus. Here are some suggestions:

- If you are not in a **Group**, get in one, or let us help you start one. Our CBC Groups webpage provides resources for both: cbcfamily.net/groups. **Groups** are where we live out our mission and where CBC life happens.
- Tune into our **Daily Devotions**, weekday mornings at 7:30 AM on our Facebook page. Our CBC staff lead these brief devotionals with prayer and a few updates. Watch them live or later: facebook.com/CBCBastrop.
- **Serve!** The very definition of a disciple is *"one who accepts and spreads the doctrines of another."* Our *"doctrine"* is the gospel and our *"another"* is Jesus Christ. Your *"accepting"* and *"spreading"* should be growing together at an equal rate. Find a way to serve so that you can *"spread"* the Good News.

Blessings,
Erin Feldges
Pastor of Discipleship