

The Village Church – Rancho Santa Fe
Discovery # 29– Adult Bible Study – 2025 & 2026

Discovering the Bible

Notes – The Goal

May 5 & 6, 2026

Philippians 1:1-11, A Prayer for Fellow Christians
Philippians 1:12-30, To Live Is Christ
Philippians 2:1-11, Imitate Christ!
Philippians 2:12-30, God Works in You
Philippians 3:1-11, To Know Christ
Philippians 3:12-4:1, Toward the Goal
Philippians 4:2-9, Always Rejoice!
Philippians 4:10-23, Strength for Every Circumstance

INTRODUCTION

1. Talking about the inspiration of the Bible is one way of saying that that energy comes from the work of God’s Spirit.
2. The Bible is inspired by God, because people are inspired by...
 - a. Who God is
 - b. And what God does
 - c. And how God operates in the world,
 - d. The Bible is not magical apart from the stories of people.
3. In our faith tradition, we don’t interpret the Bible as an inerrant manual, but as a record of human experiences, reflections, and developing understanding of the divine over time.
4. Modern Christianity and scholarship believe that the Bible can contain errors, scientific inaccuracies, or outdated cultural perspectives while still being spiritually inspired.
5. Paul doesn’t tell us that we can be happy or how to be happy. He simply and unmistakably *is* happy.
6. Christ is, among much else, the revelation that God cannot be contained or hoarded.
7. In Philippians, we gain insights into the reflection and evaluation of one who has spent his entire life seeking to know more and more of God —
 - a. First, as a rabbi
 - b. Then, as a convert to faith in Jesus Christ;
 - c. And finally, as one who dedicated his life to teaching and interpreting the Christian faith.

SCRIPTURES

1. **Philippians 1:1-11** The core message is that true joy, partnership, and spiritual growth are found in shared commitment to the gospel.
2. **Philippians 1:12-30**, Paul writes from prison to explain that his incarceration has advanced the gospel, empowering others to preach without fear.
3. **Philippians 2:1-11** calls believers to imitate Christ's humility, urging unity through selflessness and placing others' interests above their own.
4. **Philippians 2:12-30**, urges believers to actively live out their salvation with humility and obedience, shining as lights in the world.
5. **Philippians 3:1-11** is a powerful declaration by Paul that knowing Christ far outweighs any legalistic religious achievements or pedigree.
6. **Philippians 3:12-4:1** Paul urges believers to abandon complacency and actively pursue spiritual maturity, pressing toward the goal of knowing Christ rather than relying on past achievements.
7. **Philippians 4:2-9** offers a practical guide to maintaining community unity through reconciliation (Euodia/Syntyche),
 - Cultivating joy,
 - Reducing anxiety via prayer,
 - And focusing on positive mental habits.
8. **Philippians 4:10-23** Paul thanks the Philippians for their financial support while emphasizing a learned contentment
 - Independent of circumstances,
 - Grounded in Christ's strength,
 - Not self-sufficiency.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Paul's Perspective:** Despite writing from prison, Paul expresses immense joy. How does his attitude challenge your understanding of joy, especially during difficult times?
2. **Worthy Conduct:** What does it mean to "conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel" in today's world (1:27)?
3. **Paul praises Timothy** and Epaphroditus. Who are the "kindred spirits" in your life, and how do you encourage each other?

4. **What is the difference between** righteousness that comes from trying to follow the law and righteousness that comes from faith in God (3:9)?
5. **Paul says he has learned to be content** in all circumstances (4:11). Is contentment a natural trait, or a "learned" behavior? What is hindering your contentment right now?
6. **How is Philippians 4:13** ("I can do all things through Christ...") often taken out of context? How does its true meaning—finding contentment in any situation—change your perspective?
7. **Paul thanks the Philippians for** their financial support (4:10–19). How does realizing that your giving is an act of worship to God change your attitude toward generosity?

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Primary Source: Discovering the Bible: A New Generation, published by The Kerygma Program, Pittsburgh, PA. Boyd Lien, author.