

Philippians 1:1-11

God Finishes What He Starts

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ"

Lesson Focus: As we begin the book of Philippians we will hone in on the wonderful truth of how God finishes the work He starts in us. We pray this lesson will give kids confidence to wholeheartedly begin or continue their faith in Jesus.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd - 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: Memory Verse Puzzle

Starter Activity: Philippians Intro Video

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship for a short "Drive Thru History" video to introduce the new book of the Bible we are beginning this weekend. This video does a fantastic job of providing age-appropriate background information on the church at Philippi to whom Paul addressed this letter. We will likely watch more episodes of this series throughout our study of Philippians. If you'd like to preview the video, you can find it [here](#) on Rightnow Media. If you don't have access to Rightnow Media, you can get free access through RMC [here](#)!

Afterwards, we will transition into the lesson with a little bit of discussion and then dismiss the 1st/2nd graders back to their classes for the lesson. *

As we saw in the video and as we read in **Acts 16**, the apostle Paul planted a church in the ancient city of Philippi while on his second missionary adventure. Lydia, a seller of purple fabrics, was the first Philippian to believe in Jesus and it appears the local church began to meet in her home.

There also was the amazing story of the Philippian jailer who was astonished at the power of God in rescuing Paul * and asked him how he could be saved.

Q: How did Paul answer? A: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." (**Acts 16:31a**) Many years have now passed and Paul is in prison again in Rome when he writes this letter to this growing church. Let's check it out!

Bible Study:

Philippians 1:1a: Just like you would write your name on a letter that you would send to someone, Paul and Timothy, sign their names on this letter. You read about both these guys in many other places in the Bible. They were missionaries.

Q: What is a missionary? A: Someone sent out to tell people the good news of God's invitation of forgiveness and eternal life through trust in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. RMC sends missionaries out today to share the same good news!

(**Teachers:** Consider bringing in one of the RMC missionary prayer booklets and feature that missionary briefly with the class)

Philippians 1:1b: And just like you might start your letter with "Dear Grandma", Paul starts out his letter with "Dear saints (or believers) in Philippi". *

Philippians 1:2: This warm greeting is how Paul begins just about every one of his letters in the Bible. Let's review what "grace" and "peace" mean:

Grace: Freely getting what you do NOT deserve! Because of our sin and rebellion against God we deserve punishment and hell. Yet, He freely offers us forgiveness and favor, blessings that we do NOT deserve. How? By faith in Jesus! This is grace!

Peace: After receiving God's grace by faith, this is what believers experience as God's kids. * Believers are at peace with God! Their sins, past, present, and future, are forgiven! They are on His side now and will be with Him forever in heaven because of His grace! Note this is only true for believers (saints) in Jesus! *

Philippians 1:3: Paul begins the body of this letter with something that many of you have written letters for!

Q: What is the first thing Paul writes after his greeting? A: THANK YOU!

Q: How many of you have written "thank you" letters to family for gifts that they have sent you?

Paul writes this letter from a jail in Rome. The believers in Philippi had sent people with money and gifts to help him and he is thanking them for their support.

Philippians 1:4: Despite being in jail, Paul is praying for these believers with JOY!

Q: What does JOY mean? A: It means to feel great happiness and gladness. Paul understood God's grace and peace so deeply that he could still be happy even in jail! And we will experience the same the more we cling to God's grace and peace! *

Philippians 1:5: After several years this church has grown yet it still clings to the same basic gospel message that the Philippian jailer responded to: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved". That's the same gospel message we still cling to at RMC 2000 years later!

Philippians 1:6: This is one of those marvelous "hugs from God" verses in the Bible! If you are a believer in Jesus, God has begun a good work in you too and He WILL finish what He started! You are His forever and NOTHING can change that! This is one of those verses worth memorizing and repeating to yourself when times are hard.

Philippians 1:7: Paul tells these believers they are deeply fixed in his heart.
Q: What does he mean by that? A: That he cares greatly for them! * You kids are deeply fixed in our hearts also! We pray for you all the time just like Paul was praying for them, confident that the good work God has begun in you He will finish!

Philippians 1:8: Paul couldn't wait to be released from prison to be with them again.
Q: Is there anyone that you long to be with, maybe a relative from out of town? * Believe it or not, I look forward to being with you kids every weekend! *

Philippians 1:9-11: We wrap our lesson today with Paul's prayer for these believers that he loves so dearly. Let's read through it all and as we do so listen for four things that Paul asks God to grant these believers.

- 1) That their love for God and others would abound or grow (v. 9)
- 2) That they may approve or choose that which is excellent and true (v. 10)
- 3) That they may be honest and sincere every day (v. 10)
- 4) That they would bear fruit that gives glory to God! (v. 11)

Key Point: Let's go back to the Philippian jailer, one of the first believers of this church. While we don't know for sure, I bet he is one of the believers still in the church when Paul wrote this letter. Imagine how excited he would be to learn that Paul, many years later, still prays for him, cares about him, and wants to be with him! Imagine also how much this man has grown in his faith since that first day that he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. For remember that God began a good work in him on that day and He will indeed finish it! (**Philippians 1:6**)

Boys and Girls: We pray the same for you! Many of you might be like that Philippian jailer when he first believed. You don't understand how the Christian faith all works (and neither did he when he first believed), but you have trusted in Jesus. Therefore, God has begun a good work in YOU and He WILL complete it! Or maybe God has not begun that good work in you yet, because you have not put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ! Make today the day that you turn away from your sin and turn to Him in faith! * And just like Paul prayed that these Philippians would grow in their faith we pray the same over you and will end this lesson praying these last few verses over you. (**Teachers:** Consider rereading v. 9-11 as a prayer over the kids to wrap up the lesson) *

Bring It Home

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,

To the saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus:

*Greetings! Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

First

Read Philippians 1:3-4. How do you think Paul was able to remain joyful even though he was in prison?

Second

Read Philippians 1:6. Are you confident that the work God has begun in you He will finish? Why or why not?

Parent Challenge

Who was the first believer in Jesus in Philippi? (see Acts 16:14)

By His Grace,

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