

# Study Buddies

## Quick Bible Reference Guides

### PHILIPPIANS: Finding Contentment in Every Circumstance

*Note: This resource was prepared based on the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. It is always good to use more than one Bible version as a reference. This practice will enable you to compare the languages of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.*

#### Overview

Paul wrote this letter to the church in Philippi. It speaks about being content in a variety of circumstances and suggests that Christians can have peace no matter what they face in life.

It also describes ways that Christians can overcome the ways of the world to live victoriously.

#### Key Points and Verses

Please read the whole book to gain the fullest experience. These points are just a few of the highlights that have been encapsulated from the text.

- 1.15-18; 21-27 Selfish ambition vs. Selfless living
- 1.28 Building courage through Jesus Christ
- 2.6-8 True Humility
- 3.12-16 Perseverance: Running towards the goal
- 4.4-7; 11-13 Contentment through it all

#### Study Questions

1. What difference does it make knowing that Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians while he was a prisoner?
2. Paul describes choosing between living and dying as a difficult choice to make. Why is this so? (1.21-26). What do you live for? What would you be willing to die for?
3. Philippians 2.6-11 is probably a hymn that the early Christians sang as part of their worship. Summarize its key points. What hymns or songs are most meaningful to you? Why?
4. What does Paul mean when he says, "faith in the Lord and...service are like a sacrifice offered to him?" (2.17). What does it mean to be a servant of God?
5. What is the "prize" that Paul is running after? (3.12-14). How is the Christian life like a race?
6. Re-read Paul's advice in 4.4-6. Of all the things he commands, which would be the easiest for you to do? Which would be the hardest? Why?
7. Paul says "I have learned to be satisfied with whatever I have" (4.11). Have there been times in your life when you had very little? When you've had a lot? What do you need to be equally satisfied in either circumstance?

#### Something to Think About

Can you be content in all situations? What does Philippians 4.13 mean to you?

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Dear Group Leader:

If you're looking for a straightforward resource to enhance study time with your group, you have come to the right place. Study Buddies give a brief synopsis of the Bible book you wish to study and highlight key points and verses throughout the text. There are also thought-provoking questions included to get the discussion going.

These study sheets were prepared based upon the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. But when studying, it is always good to use more than one version as a reference. We encourage this practice because it will enable you and your companions to compare the language of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.

Study Buddies can be used at church, in the home, or in the workplace (where permitted) **free of charge**. Here are a few ways for you to get the most out of them:

- Use in church classroom settings for both adult and youth groups. Add a little flavor by touching upon topics that are relevant to your community. Are you in an urban setting? Rural? Suburban? How does your community compare to the communities and people of the Bible? Find ties that will make the lessons personal and relevant to the specific circumstances that you are facing.
- Use with people who don't know much about the Bible. Maybe they are new Christians or people who are uncertain about what the Bible is about. These sheets can act as a primer to basic Bible knowledge about the contents of each book and why it was written.
- Use during family time with your teens and pre-teens as a reinforcement to the lessons learned in church. While your son or daughter may already think that they're adults, these study sheets can help you help them transition into adulthood with grace and compassion.
- Finally, use with your neighbors, co-workers, friends and loved ones who have expressed an interest in the Bible. Form a small in home group and increase your awareness of what the Scriptures are saying. Try to develop bonds that will help each of you remain faithful to God and his Word.

We hope that you'll find these study sheets to be an excellent starting point for your lessons.

Sincerely,  
*American Bible Society*