

Curriculum



SAMPLE *Philippians: Finding Joy*

Gospel First
Selflessness
Passionate Relationships
Mindset

A sample of the Philippians curriculum begins on the following page.



LEARN: Overview

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit www.B-B-T.org.



Curriculum: The *BBT 1-2-3™* Format

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



Recap – Encourages community and application



LIVE: Sample Philippians

How can faith be dressed in everyday work clothes? This 4-part study of Philippians puts lofty truths into practical terms. Topics include:

1. **Gospel First**
2. **Selflessness**
3. **Passionate Relationship**
4. **Mindset.**

No book is needed.



LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)



PRAYERS



LEARN

Opposite Thinking

When Thomas Cannon was three years old, his father died. After Thomas' mother remarried, the family of six lived in a three-room wooden shack without running water or electricity. As an adult, Thomas went to work with the postal service. He never made more than \$25,000 a year. Upon retirement, he and his wife lived in poverty. Yet over the course of 33 years, Thomas gave away more than \$156,000. His gifts were mainly in the form of \$1,000 checks given to people he read about in the newspaper who were going through hard times or who especially exemplified courage or kindness. A youth worker in a low-income apartment complex, a volunteer faithfully serving at an elementary school, a Vietnamese couple wanting to return home to visit, and a teenager abandoned as an infant were some of the recipients of Thomas' benevolence.

Thomas' motivation came from an incident that happened when he was a young man attending a naval signal school. When an explosion at Chicago's port took the lives of many of his shipmates, Thomas concluded that "he had been spared to help others and be a role model." This led to his passion for giving.

Cannon's biographer, Sandra Waugaman, comments, "Not many people would consider living in a house in a poor neighborhood without central heat, air conditioning, or a telephone, and working overtime so that they could save money to give away."¹

Give it Away

This is exactly Christianity's approach to others. Instead of promoting ourselves, we should look out for the interests of others. Christianity does not compute when it's carried around in expensive handbags. It only makes sense when it's giving itself away. But, we live in a culture that emphasizes individuality and glorifies accumulation. Therefore, Christians must be careful not to apply those worldly principles to the benefits and gifts we receive as members of God's kingdom. Instead, we should look to the example of Christ and give away those blessings, so that others may experience God's love and be saved. This study shows us how practicing self-emptying love for others brings true joy.



LIVE

Discussion questions: Read the text and scriptures below, and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [Philippians 2:1-4](#). How does Paul say you can work together with one mind and purpose?
2. Read [Philippians 2:5-16](#). Why would Christ give up His right to be worshiped on earth?
3. Read [Philippians 2:17-18](#) and [Numbers 28:7](#). What did Paul mean that his life was "poured out like a drink offering"?
4. Read [Philippians 2:19-24](#). What can you emulate in Timothy's behavior that Paul appreciated?
5. Read [Philippians 2:25-30](#). Why was Paul willing to give up Epaphroditus's company when he relied on it so much?

Application Question: How will you begin to change the culture of your workplace using Paul's examples?



PRAYERS

¹ "Thomas Cannon Had Little Money to Give," Omaha Sunday World Herald [July 2005], p. 13A; submitted by Ted De Hass, PreachingToday.com



PRAYERS

Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests



LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



LIVE

Discussion Questions: Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

1) Read [Philippians 2:1-4](#). How does Paul say you can work together with one mind and purpose?



When you find encouragement from being united with Christ, comfort from His love and fellowship with the Holy Spirit, selflessness is possible.



Paul uses repetition in [verse 2](#) to emphasize the importance of unity in mutual love ("like minded," "same love," "one in spirit"). "Many people – even Christians – live only to make a good impression on others or to please themselves. But selfishness brings discord. Paul therefore, stressed spiritual unity, asking the Philippians to love one another and to be one in spirit and purpose. When we work together, caring for the problems of others as if they were our problems, we demonstrate Christ's example of putting others first, and we experience unity. Don't be so concerned about making a good impression or meeting your own needs that you strain relationships in God's family."¹

Notes:

2) Read [Philippians 2:5-16](#). Why would Christ give up His right to be worshiped on earth?



He knew that He'd be worshiped ultimately. It is the height of security to give up our rights for others. It shows we understand that giving up our rights now secures great reward for the future.



These verses are grounded in Christ's self-emptying sacrifice. God-likeness consists not in selfish grabbing but selfless giving. Crucifixion was usually reserved for slaves and terrible criminals, so it was not mentioned in polite conversation. Paul used shocking language here. Unity with Christ is absolutely necessary evidence that the gospel is at work in the community; such unity is mocked by selfish ambition and complaining.



Facilitate a brief discussion. You may want to ask: What are some practical examples of how selfish ambition and complaining destroy unity in the workplace? What self-emptying sacrifice could you make to change that?

¹ Holy Bible, New Living Translation "Parallel Study Bible", Philippians 2:1-5

Notes:

- 3) Read [Philippians 2:17-18](#) and [Numbers 28:7](#). What did Paul mean that his life was “poured out like a drink offering”?



Like an offering of wine poured out as a sacrifice to God, Paul regarded his life as a living sacrifice.



The sacrificial system was instituted at Mt. Sinai (see [Exodus 29:38-46](#)) in order to atone for sins and facilitate fellowship with God. This was the practice until God provided His own sacrificial offering, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for all people and restore a right relationship with Him. Now, as believers, our faithful service is offered to God in thanksgiving for this restored relationship and as it says in [1 Corinthians 15:58](#), “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”



Facilitate a brief discussion. You may want to ask: How do you labor for the Lord? Do you see the work you do every day as a sacrificial offering to God?

Notes:

- 4) Read [Philippians 2:19-24](#). What can you emulate in Timothy’s behavior that Paul appreciated?



Paul appreciated Timothy’s loyalty and genuine concern for the welfare of others above himself.



Timothy modeled the love that comes through service. “...Just as a skilled workman trains an apprentice, Paul was preparing Timothy to carry on the ministry in his absence. Paul encouraged younger Christians to learn, to observe, to help and then to lead. Paul expected older Christians to teach, to model, to mentor and then to turn over leadership. The benefits of such a process are a new enthusiasm and vision, new methods and energy...”² BBT calls this the [Leadership Flywheel](#).



As a BBT group leader, you should familiarize yourself with the BBT Leadership Flywheel and talk with your group members about it. Reach out to your BBT coach too, especially if you have questions or feel like you or your group are stuck in a rut.

Notes:

² Holy Bible, New Living Translation “Parallel Study Bible”, Philippians 2:22

- 5) Read [Philippians 2:25-30](#). Why was Paul willing to give up Epaphroditus's company when he relied on it so much?



Epaphroditus modeled the joy of Christ that comes through suffering.



Epaphroditus was a messenger of the church in Philippi sent to Paul as a gift while he was under house arrest in Rome. He took ill and word of it spread back to Philippi. Paul sent him back home selflessly honoring him for his sacrificial service to the Lord. Paul helps us see that no matter what our work or where we serve, we are called to do it sacrificially to honor God.

Notes:

Application Question: How will you begin to change the culture of your workplace using Paul's examples?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



LEAD

Ask yourself: Where is the most important place I need to live selflessly in this season of my life? Wherever it is, at work or in your personal life, leave yourself a visual reminder to live more selflessly.

PLEASE NOTE: This is study 2 of 4 on Philippians. What will you consider next? Consult a [BBT Coach](#) for suggestions.



PRAYERS

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LEARN

Harmony is created when we follow Jesus' example of putting others before himself. Jesus gave up his own glory, selflessly giving to humanity. Paul selflessly invested in younger Christians, empowering a new generation.

Scripture references for this study: [Philippians chapter 2](#), [Exodus 29:38-46](#), [Numbers 28:7](#), and [1 Corinthians 15:58](#)



LIVE

- A Selfless Harmony
- With Selfless Humility
- Offering Selfless Help

Application Question: How will you begin to change the culture of your workplace using Paul's examples?



LEAD

Ask yourself: Where is the most important place I need to live selflessly in this season of my life? Wherever it is, at work or in your personal life, leave yourself a visual reminder to live more selflessly.