

Book of Philippians

Before we get to the study of the Book of Philippians, it's important to read how the church in Philippi started in **Acts 16:8-40**. Save these sheets in your Bible – they'll be handy for reference later.

The Lowdown on Philippians

Philippi was a historic city, and a key stronghold in the Roman Empire. The apostle Paul started the church in Philippi around AD 50. It was especially important because it was from there that Christianity spread into Europe!

Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians while he was in prison. We don't know why Paul was in prison – but we do know that it was connected somehow to the fact that he boldly preached the gospel, and many wanted him to stop. As you will see in Chapter One, Paul must have been near death at one point during his imprisonment, and suffered for the sake of the gospel.

Philippians is a great letter of joy and encouragement. Many of Paul's letters (see the books of Galatians and Corinthians) were written to correct believers who were being misguided by false teachers. In contrast, the theme of Philippians could be one word: JOY.

Various names for Jesus Christ are used over 50 times – obviously, Paul had a deep, personal relationship with and focus on Christ as Lord and the love of his life.

Finally, the book of Philippians is very “ministry-minded.” Paul knows that the Philippians are more mature in their relationships with God, so they can be challenged in the deeper applications of their faith.



Paul calls them to witness to the world, to behave like Christ, and to keep growing in their love for Him. **This is our prayer for you as well!**

Let's study Acts 16 & the beginning of the church in Philippi...

Open up to Acts 16:8-12. This missionary journey was Paul's second journey preaching the gospel around the Roman Empire. He took a guy named Silas with him. They left from Syrian Antioch and traveled first through the regions of Syria and Cilicia. They passed Paul's hometown of Tarsus and traveled up past Colossae, through Asia and the region of Galatia. (Trace those areas on your map).

Read 16:13-15. Lydia was already a "worshiper of God." Yet the Lord opened her heart to Paul's message, and she and everyone in her household got baptized. Have you been baptized? Why or why not? Turn to **Acts 2:38** really quick to see why people get baptized. If you have more questions about getting baptized, talk with your parents, your youth leader or Kelly.



Read 16:16-18. Why do you think Paul was "troubled" by the slave girl's shouting?

Read 16:19-25. Why did Paul & Silas get arrested? What reason did the slaveowners give for having them arrested?



Re-read 16:25. If you were in jail unfairly, after having been beaten up by a crowd, do you think you'd be singing and praising God?? How would *you* respond to such a situation?

Read 16:26-34. Why did the jailer want to know how to be saved?

From Lydia and the jailer's households, the church in Philippi got started – the first church in Europe!

EXTRA CREDIT: Do you know how Santa Barbara Community Church got started?