

Philippians & Colossians

Youth Bible Study

**Sample
Lesson**

Before you begin

An ideal curriculum for home-school, Bible class, Sunday School or personal Bible Study, **Joy of Living Youth Curriculum** is flexible and easy to use. Each lesson covers the same scripture passage as the adult **Joy of Living** Study.

Age:

This course encourages students of various ages to develop a habit of personal Bible study. Since the study requires reading the Bible and writing answers to the questions, the minimum age should be about 6 years old. Although the questions are geared to about age 10, older students will profit by gaining a basic knowledge of the Bible. Students over the age of 14 may be mature enough to study the adult **Joy of Living** course.

The lessons:

The study is divided into weekly units. Each week is divided into three sections:

- a suggested class schedule including craft and game ideas
- leader's lesson sheets (these contain the answers for the lesson completed by the students during the previous week)
- student questions for the next lesson (these are passed out at the end of the class)

Students complete the written lessons at home and are encouraged to do a few questions each day rather than trying to complete all the questions in one day. This will aid the students in developing a pattern of daily Bible Study. The "HARD" and "RISKY" questions are to inspire the student to think and reason and help them dig deeper into God's Word.

For homeschool or personal Bible study:

The curriculum may be used in a variety of ways:

- Lessons may be completed by the individual student and graded for accuracy. Discussion time is optional, although it is encouraged.
- Students within the same family or group may work on the lessons together. A discussion time with a parent or other adult is suggested.
- Adults may work one-on-one with the student(s) while they complete the lesson.
- Lessons may be used as part of family devotions. Read the portions of scripture aloud and use the questions to prompt discussion of the Bible passage.

For use with groups:

There is great flexibility in implementing this curriculum. Since each class has its own needs, space, finances, and time frame the class schedule is supplied as a general outline and can be changed to suit specific situations and needs.

Each class session has free time, recreation/snack time, question discussion time, and craft time.

Remember - Keep the pace moving to avoid boredom and trouble, while providing continuity.

Suggested time SCHEDULE to be adapted to individual group:

- 15 - 20 minutes. - unstructured free time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - game/snack time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - discussion time
- remaining time for craft

Helpful Hints for Groups

Facility/Equipment

- Whatever the class size, access to a gym or large game room is worthwhile for team play and group activities.
- If the church has the room, a separate cupboard for supplies is a plus.
- Access to a TV/VCR is helpful but not necessary.
- A volleyball or similar ball is good to have on hand for a variety of games.

Discussion Time

- Use the counting off system to divide the class into groups for discussion time. (Avoid, if possible, separating into groups according to age or family.)
- Each discussion group should have an adult leader. Older children should not be used (unless absolutely necessary) as leaders or sitters; they are there for fellowship and learning, too.
- With many of the questions there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are to encourage the student to think and reason and to dig deeper into God's Word. However, since discussion time is also a form of teaching, the leaders are given answers on their question sheets to aid them in the discussion, with occasional commentary insights added in brackets.
- As you discuss the lesson be careful not to belittle a student's opinion or idea. Even if the answer is wrong you can encourage the student by saying something similar to, "I like to see that you're thinking, do you think perhaps... (then give the correct answer)" or "I can see that you are thinking about the question, does anyone else have thoughts on this question?"

Teachers/Leaders/Helpers

- The number of leaders and helpers is determined by the size of the class. The ideal situation is one discussion leader per every 5 children.
- In addition to the main leader, it is helpful to have a game leader, and craft leader.

- Responsibilities are determined within each class structure.
- Parent volunteers may be requested when extra help is needed. If there is a large number of children, the parents have to volunteer only once or twice the entire year.
- Scheduling parents to bring treats is a financial bonus. Keeping cost to a minimum is being a good steward of God's resources.

Game Time

Although board games, puzzles, hidden pictures, crosswords, coloring, and quiet activities do not keep the attention of active children, they should not be ruled out as alternative game time activities. Ball games, races, or tag games are suggested and favored to holding everyone's interest.

Suggestions for obtaining craft ideas & supplies:

Garage/yard/rummage sales

library craft books

children's magazines

YMCA, Park & Recreation Dept., churches (almost every city has a summer program for children, which includes a craft time; they may have leftover craft supplies they would like to donate)

Supplies to have on hand for crafts not in kits:

glue, glue sticks, glue gun

scissors (at least 1 pair for every 2 students)

paint (tempera-washable)

paint brushes

paper towels

newspapers

construction paper

crayons

colored markers

colored pencils

paper cups, napkins (snack time)

various items to pass in relay races

balls, basketball, nerf, etc.

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS — WEEK ONE

NO LESSON DISCUSSION

15 – 20 minutes free time – games, fellowship

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: STEPPING STONES

You will need four sheets of paper (construction, newspaper, etc.) of any size, any color. Divide class into two teams. Give the first person of each team two sheets of paper. Draw the start line and the finish line on the playing area with masking tape. At the signal the first person of each team must throw one sheet of paper onto the floor and jump onto it. He then throws the second sheet forward, steps on it, turns around and picks up the first sheet of paper. Rotating papers in this manner until he reaches the finish line. Then he runs back to his team, tags the second in line, and game continues until all have raced.

15 – 20 minutes discuss class rules

to end of class CRAFT: DAISY FLOWER*

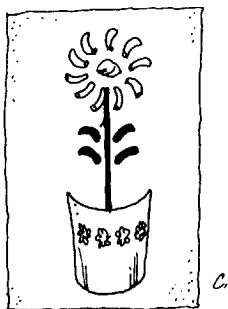
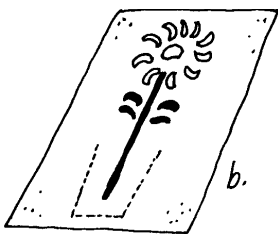
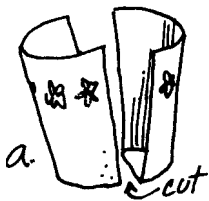
MATERIALS:

small paper cups
small shell macaroni
glue
scissors
felt-tip pens
6" x 9" colored construction paper or poster board
styrofoam meat trays (to hold glue for dipping)

large elbow macaroni
spaghetti or green pipe cleaners
spray paint (optional)
pencils

If colored flowers are desired, spray paint macaroni & spaghetti before class.

Cut one paper cup at a time in half from top to bottom (sketch a). Draw outline of cup on each piece of construction paper (sketch b). Glue pipe cleaner or spaghetti piece onto paper with end extending into "vase." Use shell and elbow macaroni pieces to make flower and leaves on stem. Use felt pens to decorate cup. Glue cup onto construction paper for vase (sketch c).



*from *A Treasure Chest of Crafts*, Gospel Light Publications, 1985, page 21. Used by permission.

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 1

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write, "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write all the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Philippians chapter 1 verses 1 – 6.

The book of Philippians is known as the book of joy. The word "joy" or "rejoice" is mentioned about 16 times in 104 verses (depending on the translation). Keep your eyes out for all the times these words are mentioned. Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey as recorded in Acts 16:12.

1. When we write a letter, we say "Dear ...", and we enter someone's name. Then we sign our name at the bottom. But when the letter to the Philippians was written, the person writing the letter put his name first. Who is this letter from?
2. What do the writers call themselves in verse 1?
3. The following verses are some of what the Bible says about Paul and Timothy. Underline or circle the words and phrases that tell you about each man. Put the information in the two columns on the next page. When your list is finished, you'll know a lot about each of them. (Note: Paul's former name was Saul before he met Jesus.)

Acts 7:55,58; 8:1 "But Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked upward into Heaven and saw the glory of God. And he could see Jesus standing at God's right hand.... They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. The people took off their coats. And they laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.... Saul was there when they killed Stephen. And he agreed that killing him was a good thing."

Acts 9:1-3,5,15,22 "Now Saul was in Jerusalem, threatening to kill the believers there. But then he went to see the High Priest. He asked for a letter addressed to synagogues in Damascus. The letter told the Jews there to help Saul persecute the believers in their city. They were to arrest all the believers, both men and women. And then Saul would bring them in chains to Jerusalem. Saul was almost to Damascus to arrest the believers there. But suddenly a bright light from Heaven shone down on him!... 'Who is speaking, sir?' Saul asked. And the voice replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are trying to hurt!'... But the Lord said [to Ananias], 'Go and do what I say. For Saul is my chosen instrument. He will preach my message to the Gen-

tiles and their kings. He also will preach to the people of Israel.’... Saul became more and more powerful in his preaching. And the Damascus Jews couldn’t stand against his proofs that Jesus was the Messiah.”

Acts 13:9 “But Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 16:1-3 “Paul and Silas went first to Derbe. Then they went on to Lystra, where they met a believer named Timothy. Timothy’s mother was a Christian Jewess, but his father was a Greek. Timothy was well thought of by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium. So Paul asked him to join them on their journey. And he circumcised Timothy before they left. Paul did this so he wouldn’t offend any of the Jews of the area. For everyone knew that Timothy’s father was Greek and hadn’t allowed this before.”

1 Corinthians 1:1 “From: Paul, chosen by God to be Jesus Christ’s missionary, and from brother Sosthenes.”

1 Corinthians 4:17 “I am sending Timothy to help you do this. He is one of those I won to Christ. He is a beloved and trusted child in the Lord. He will remind you of what I teach in all the churches everywhere.”

1 Timothy 1:2 [Paul is writing.] “To: Timothy. Timothy, you are like a son to me in the things of the Lord. Kindness, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

2 Timothy 1:5 [Paul is writing to Timothy.] “I know how much you trust the Lord. You trust him just as your mother, Eunice, and your grandmother, Lois, do. I feel sure you are still trusting him as much as ever.”

SAUL

TIMOTHY

4. **RISKY:** Paul thanks God for the Philippian Christians. He prays with joy because they share the gospel with him and with others. When Paul prays for the Philippians, in how many prayers does Paul thank God for the Philippian believers?

5. **PERSONAL:** Do you tell others about Jesus? Do you tell them that He took their punishment for the bad things they do? Do you tell them He did this so they wouldn't be apart from God forever? That's what Jesus did when He died on the cross. Do you think you are too young to do this? What does Jeremiah 1:5 say about the time when God calls people to tell others about Him?

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 7 – 14.

1. What does Paul want the Philippians to have more and more?
2. What does 1 Corinthians 13:1 say about love?
3. How does someone get to know more about Jesus and what He has done? See Ephesians 1:17 for your answer.

The dictionary says wisdom is “good judgment and knowledge of what is right and true” (HOLT).

4. What does James 1:5 say is one way for us to have wisdom?
5. **CHALLENGE:** Carefully read Philippians 1:12-14. Where do you think Paul was when he wrote this letter?

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 15 – 19.

1. Paul says some people spread the gospel because they love God. Others tell the gospel because they are jealous of Paul. How does Paul feel about these two kinds of people?
2. What does Jesus say in Mark 9:40?
3. **CHALLENGE:** Paul says in Philippians 1:19: “I am going to keep on being glad. I know that you pray for me and the Spirit helps me. So this is all going to turn out for my good.” How is this like what Paul wrote in Romans 8:28?

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 20 – 26.

1. **RISKY:** Why does Paul want to be brave?

2. What do these verses say about belonging to God?

Daniel 3:16-18

Romans 14:8

3. Paul wasn't afraid to die. He knew he would be with Jesus when that time came. What is he sure Jesus wants him to do?

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 27 – 30.

1. Paul says we have the privilege to trust in Christ and also to suffer for Him. What does James 1:2 say about the things we suffer, or the hard times we go through? These are called trials.

2. Sometimes the bad things that happen to us come from those who don't like us, or who are our enemies. What did Jesus say we should do for our enemies in the following verses?

Luke 6:27,28

Romans 12:20,21

3. **PERSONAL:** Do you pray for people who are mean to you? Are you kind to those who hurt your feelings? Do you have Luke 6:27,28 or Romans 12:20,21 memorized to help you remember what God's Word says we should do for our enemies and our friends?

PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS LESSON 1 – ANSWERS

Read Philippians chapter 1 verses 1 – 6.

The book of Philippians is known as the book of joy. The word “joy” or “rejoice” is mentioned about 16 times in 104 verses (depending on the translation). Keep your eyes out for all the times these words are mentioned. Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey as recorded in Acts 16:12.

1. When we write a letter, we say “Dear ...”, and we enter someone’s name. Then we sign our name at the bottom. But when the letter to the Philippians was written, the person writing the letter put his name first. Who is this letter from? Verse 1. Paul and Timothy.
2. What do the writers call themselves in verse 1? Slaves, servants, etc. of Jesus Christ.
3. The following verses are some of what the Bible says about Paul and Timothy. Underline or circle the words and phrases that tell you about each man. Put the information in the two columns on the next page. When your list is finished, you’ll know a lot about each of them. (Note: Paul’s former name was Saul before he met Jesus.)

Acts 7:55,58; 8:1 “But Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked upward into Heaven and saw the glory of God. And he could see Jesus standing at God’s right hand.... They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. The people took off their coats. And they laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.... Saul was there when they killed Stephen. And he agreed that killing him was a good thing.”

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him to join them on their journey. And he circumcised Timothy before they left. Paul did this so he wouldn't offend any of the Jews of the area. For everyone knew that Timothy's father was Greek and hadn't allowed this before."

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SAUL

People laid their coats at his feet
Agreed killing Stephen was a good thing
Was in Jerusalem threatening to kill the believers
Went to Damascus to persecute the believers to bring them in chains to Jerusalem
Jesus speaks to him
Is Jesus' chosen instrument to the Gentiles and their kings
Became powerful in his preaching
Was filled with the Holy Spirit
Met Timothy in Lystra
Jesus Christ's missionary

TIMOTHY

His mother was a Christian Jewess,
his father was Greek
Joined Paul on his journey
Paul circumcised him
Beloved and trusted child in the Lord
Like a son to Paul
Trusts the Lord
Mother is Eunice, grandmother is Lois

4. **RISKY:** Paul thanks God for the Philippian Christians. He prays with joy because they share the gospel with him and with others. When Paul prays for the Philippians, in how many prayers does Paul thank God for the Philippian believers? Verse 3: ALL. "ALL my prayers for you are full of praise to God!" (italics added)

5. **PERSONAL:** Do you tell others about Jesus? Do you tell them that He took their punishment for the bad things they do? Do you tell them He did this so they wouldn't be apart from God forever? That's what Jesus did when He died on the cross. Do you think you are too young to

do this? What does Jeremiah 1:5 say about the time when God calls people to tell others about Him? “I knew you before you were shaped in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart. I chose you as my spokesman to the world.”

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 7 – 14.

1. What does Paul want the Philippians to have more and more of? Verse 9: “My prayer for you is that you will overflow more and more with love for others. I pray that you grow in spiritual knowledge and insight.”
2. What does 1 Corinthians 13:1 say about love? “I may be able to speak in every language in Heaven and earth. But if I didn’t love others, I would only be making noise.”
3. How does someone get to know more about Jesus and what He has done? See Ephesians 1:17 for your answer. “I pray for you all the time. I ask God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you wisdom. Then you will see and understand who Christ is and what he has done.”

The dictionary says wisdom is “good judgment and knowledge of what is right and true” (HOLT).

4. What does James 1:5 say is one way for us to have wisdom? “If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him. He will gladly tell you. He is ready to give wisdom to all who ask him. He will not scold you.”
5. **CHALLENGE:** Carefully read Philippians 1:12-14. Where do you think Paul was when he wrote this letter? In prison, verse 14: “Because I am in prison, many here seem to have lost their fear of chains! Somehow my patience has cheered them up. They have become more and more bold in telling others about Christ.” [Although Paul was in prison, chained between two guards, his joy for the Philippian church was not diminished. Outside circumstances did not alter his joy, his joy was in Jesus Christ, not in others or things.]

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 15 – 19.

1. Paul says some people spread the gospel because they love God. Others tell the gospel because they are jealous of Paul. How does Paul feel about these two kinds of people? Verse 18: “I don’t care why they do it. The fact is, the Good News about Christ is being preached, and I am glad.”
2. What does Jesus say in Mark 9:40? “Anyone who isn’t against us is for us.”
3. **CHALLENGE:** Paul says in Philippians 1:19: “I am going to keep on being glad. I know that you pray for me and the Spirit helps me. So this is all going to turn out for my good.” How is this like what Paul wrote in Romans 8:28? “Everything that happens to us is working for our good. We know this is true if we love God and fit into his plans.”

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 20 – 26.

1. **RISKY:** Why does Paul want to be brave? He wants to be brave for Christ. Verse 20: “I eagerly expect and hope that I will never be ashamed of what I do. I expect that I will always be ready to speak boldly for Christ. Even now, just as in the past, I hope that I will be an honor to Christ. This is true whether I live or die.”

2. What do these verses say about belonging to God?

Daniel 3:16-18 “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego gave him this answer. ‘O Nebuchadnezzar,’ they said. ‘We are not afraid of what will happen to us. If we are thrown into the flaming furnace, our God can save us. And he will save us out of your hand, O king. But if he doesn’t, even then we will never serve your gods. And we will never worship the gold statue you have made.’”

Romans 14:8 “Living or dying we follow the Lord. Either way we are his.”

3. Paul wasn’t afraid to die. He knew he would be with Jesus when that time came. What is he sure Jesus wants him to do? Verses 25,26: “Yes, I am still needed here. So I feel certain I will be staying on earth a little longer. That way I can help you grow and become happy in your faith. My staying will make you glad. It will give you reason to glorify Christ when I come back to visit you.”

Read Philippians chapter 1, verses 27 – 30.

1. Paul says we have the privilege to trust in Christ and also to suffer for Him. What does James 1:2 say about the things we suffer, or the hard times we go through? These are called trials. “Dear brothers, is your life full of trouble and trials? Then be happy.”

2. Sometimes the bad things that happen to us come from those who don’t like us, or who are our enemies. What did Jesus say we should do for our enemies in the following verses?

Luke 6:27,28 “Listen, all of you! Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Pray for the happiness of those who curse you. Ask God to bless those who hurt you.”

Romans 12:20,21 “Instead, feed your enemy if he is hungry. If he is thirsty give him something to drink. If you do this you will be ‘heaping coals of fire on his head.’ That means he will feel bad about what he has done to you. Don’t let evil be the winner. Crush evil by doing good.”

3. **PERSONAL:** Do you pray for people who are mean to you? Are you kind to those who hurt your feelings? Do you have Luke 6:27,28 or Romans 12:20,21 memorized to help you remember what God’s Word says we should do for our enemies and our friends?