

## Why Settle for Less?

People who are living large never settle for second best. As you study through the book of Philippians this quarter, you'll identify ways that you might be settling for less than what's yours to enjoy in the Christian life. You'll also learn how you can be Living Large in your walk with Christ.

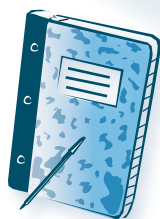


### **The Real Faith in Life Devotional**

**Bible Study** is designed to help you dig into God's Word. Each lesson offers devotions for Monday through Saturday, along with an In-Class

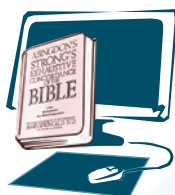
worksheet to be completed during your group study.

In order for you to gain the most out of your devotional time, use the following tools along with your student book.



**Journal:** Purchase a journal or notebook to record your personal thoughts and prayers. Bring your journal and student book to class each week so that you can take notes during the

lesson or write any special insights you gain from a particular activity. You may also use the journal for sermon notes or for prayer requests.



**Bible study tools:** In order for you to dig into God's Word, consider using a Bible dictionary and a concordance. If you are not familiar with these helpful guides, ask your pastor or youth leader for a recommendation.

Or visit an online Bible tools Web site, such as [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org).

This site offers commentaries, maps, and many other tools to help you in your Bible study. (This recommendation does not constitute a blanket endorsement by RBP.)

# Big Fellowship

What comes to mind when you hear the word “fellowship”? Paul’s idea of fellowship had very little to do with casseroles and desserts or with polite chatter before a church service. As he began his letter to the believers at Philippi, he described the bonds of fellowship that tied his hearts to the hearts of his readers.

## Memory Verse:



*“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).*

## Monday

**Paul’s letters tend to have a standard opening, and Philippians is no exception. Read Philippians 1:1 and 2 and fill in the information below:**

1. The senders:



*While Timothy is mentioned almost as if he were writing along with Paul, the content of the letter clearly indicates Paul was the one doing the writing.*

2. The recipients:

3. The blessing:

**We don’t always know much history about the churches Paul wrote to, but Acts 16 includes a lengthy description of the beginning of the church at Philippi. Read Acts 16:1–12.**

4. How did Timothy become a part of Paul’s company?

5. How were their travels constrained?

6. How did they end up in Philippi?

7. What descriptions are given of the city of Philippi?



*Through several significant happenings in Philippi long before Paul got there, the city had become a “Rome away from Rome.” To be a citizen of Philippi was to be a Roman citizen and to enjoy all the privileges the Romans enjoyed in Rome itself.*



**Memory Verse Activity:** This week's memory verse, Philippians 1:6, is a very good verse to have in your "arsenal" when Satan tempts you to be discouraged about your growth as a believer. Make sure to take time this week to tuck it away in your mind for use in daily spiritual battle.

## Tuesday

**Continue learning about Paul's experiences in Philippi by reading Acts 16:13–15.**

1. Describe the first recorded ministry activity in Philippi.
2. Who was the first person to believe?
3. How did her decision to believe lead to a multiplication of believers in Philippi?



*The New Testament pattern is always belief before baptism. Lydia's household was not baptized because Lydia believed. They were baptized because they believed as well.*

**Often when the gospel message had a positive effect in a city, a negative experience was just around the corner. Read Acts 16:16–24.**

4. Describe the girl who followed Paul around.
5. How did Paul handle this aggravation?



*Demons seem to have a good grasp of Who Jesus is and what the gospel is, but neither Jesus nor the apostles accepted their testimony.*

6. Why did Paul's action enrage people in the city?
7. What charges were brought against Paul and Silas?
8. What happened to Paul and Silas?
9. If you were Paul or Timothy at this point, what would you think would be the likelihood that a strong church would be established in Philippi?



# Thursday

If you've ever been on a missions trip, you know that you come home thinking about the people you met and ministered to, but before long you forget to think about them and you eventually even forget their names. This was not the case with Paul.

## **Read Philippians 1:3 and 4.**

1. What was Paul's habit when he thought about the Philippians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does Paul's attitude in prayer for the Philippians say about his relationship with them?

## **Read verse 5, substituting "because of" for "for" and "partnership" for "fellowship."**

3. What was the basis of Paul's joy-filled relationship with the Philippians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How do common goals bind people together?
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How can the basis of Paul's relationship with the Philippians still bind people together today?

## **Read verse 6.**

6. What confidence did Paul have about the Philippians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What good work had begun in them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. When is the day of Jesus Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Knowing this verse is also true of you, if you have accepted Christ as your personal Savior, how can you be encouraged in your growth as a Christian?
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How can this verse encourage you to be patient with others' growth as well?

# Friday

**Paul makes no effort of hiding his affection toward the Philippian believers. Read Philippians 1:7 and 8.**

1. What do you think the phrase “I have you in my heart” means?
2. What ways did Paul say the Philippians had been partakers of his grace?
3. How had both the Philippians and Paul experienced God’s saving grace?
4. Given the initial opposition to the gospel in Philippi, how might the Philippian believers have been partakers with Paul in God’s grace during suffering?
5. How might the church at Philippi have been a part of Paul’s ministry even after he left the city?
6. What does verse 8 indicate about the depth of Paul’s love for the Philippian believers?



*The Greek word for “bowels” referred to the central, essential organs of the body—the liver, heart, and lungs. This physical core of life was believed to be the origin of affection and other emotions. Today we use the word “heart” with the same meaning.*

7. Why was Paul’s love for—and fellowship with—the Philippians so great, even though time and space came between them?
8. Is there anyone in your life who you can say you have this degree of fellowship with?
9. Why is it so much easier to settle for a mediocre degree of fellowship instead of developing the kind of fellowship among believers Paul described?

# Saturday

In **Philippians 1:3 and 4**, Paul mentioned that he prayed for the Philippians. Verses 9–11 detail specifically what he prayed for them. Read these verses.

1. What was Paul's first request for them?

Read the following verses and write how they answer the question, **Why is love so important in a believer's life?**

2. Mark 12:30, 31

3. John 13:35

4. 1 John 4:7–11

5. Toward whom would Paul want the Philippians' love to abound?

6. What do knowledge and discernment ("judgment") have to do with abounding love?

7. What other things did Paul pray for the Philippians?



*"Sincere" was a term used of a pot that, when held up to the sunlight, was proven to be without crack or attempted repair.*

8. Why is it critical for believers to be able to identify and approve the things that are excellent?

9. What would be the ultimate outcome of the believers' being filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes only through Jesus Christ?

How we pray for others often reflects how we feel about those for whom we're praying. Paul's prayer for the Philippians shows that he wanted the best things for them spiritually, not just physically. Consider praying Paul's prayer for someone close to you today.



**I know I'm living large when I develop big fellowship with other believers.**



# Journal Notes



# Big Fellowship

Think of a person in your church whom you barely know but would like to know better.

Write that person's name here:

## Getting the Facts

What are some facts you would like to know about this person?

What are some ways you can initiate conversations in which you could ask questions to find out these facts?

## Giving It Time

What kinds of things can you do with this person in order to spend quality time with him or her?

## Sharing Big Fellowship

What are some indicators that will show you have reached a Philippians-style fellowship with this person?

What will be required from you to get to this point?

How could being at this level of fellowship benefit

The other person?

You?

The church?