



Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Philippians 1:3-8

Partnership in the Gospel

Welcome to the Spring 2025 GLC Season! We are starting a new series in the book of Philippians called Jesus Is Worth It. May the Lord bless each of you as you study this great book together.

exploring

We will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

We will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

We will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

We will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.



exploring

1 Read Philippians 1:3-8

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

1. Notice some emotional tones/words in the passage.

2. Any repeated words, phrases to take note of?

3. The word translated “partnership” in the ESV and “fellowship” in many English translations is the Greek word Koinonia. Read the following verses in which the same word Koinonia occurs.

- Philippians 2:1, 3:10
- 1 John 1:3, 6, 7
- The word is important in understanding the passage. What does it mean?

digging

Review the context of the beginning of the Philippian church in Acts 16:11-40.

4. Paul could have reminded the church of what he and Silas had gone through to see this church started. What did he do instead? (Phil. 1:6)

5. Paul seems to be proud of this church and is definitely affectionate towards them. What is his confidence and passion for them based on?

growing

Verse 6 became the focal point of Pastor Imran message: God-initiated and God-completed Partnership.

6. According to verses 3-5, what is Paul's response to this partnership?

7. We are reminded that Paul is writing this letter from a prison cell. How is he able to respond this way to the Philippians?

8. We often promise people that we will pray for them, but don't always follow through. Paul is an example for us, praying with joy from his prison cell. Discuss with the group how you are doing with this and brainstorm ways to be more faithful.

9. -iGonitiated partnership involves preaching the gospel. The word “gospel” occurs twice in our passage and numerous times in the chapter. Discuss the meaning of the word in your group. What are the basic elements of the Gospel?
10. Does this God-initiated partnership necessarily involve suffering?
- Read about Paul’s experiences of suffering in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28.
 - Read Philippians 1:29 – Consider what the term “granted” means in relation to suffering.
11. If you join God-initiated partnership then expect suffering, but in your suffering He who began a good work in you will give us “grace to help us in our time of need”.
- Share with the group how you have experienced this in your life.
12. Paul’s partnership theme follows through to the end of the letter. What aspect of this God-initiated partnership comes through in Philippians 4:15-16?

going

13. Pastor Imran encouraged us as a church to take inventory of our God-initiated partnerships, of our partnerships in the gospel, and respond as Paul did in chapter 1:3-4.
- Take time as a group to talk about some of King Road’s partnerships. Bring some actual reports from our partners to share. Then follow Paul’s example in praying for these partners with thankfulness and joy.