



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it!

WEEK 11

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

PHILIPPIANS - day one

Believe it or not, Paul wrote Philippians while in prison, although it would be hard to discover just by reading this letter. It's full of joy, in spite of the struggles he was going through at the time.

Look up and highlight 4:4-7.

If you ever need a pick me up when you are feeling down, go back and read this highlighted section of Philippians in your Bible. Paul tells us to rejoice IN THE LORD. Why do you think that's important when you are feeling down?

Paul goes on and gives us help for dealing with anxiety. What are some things that make you feel anxious? According to these verses, what is the antidote for being anxious? What does Paul say about the peace of God?

Prayer - O Lord, there are things which drag me down from time to time. When I'm feeling down, help me to remember the Bible verses I just highlighted in Philippians. Remind me of your constant love and care. Amen.

COLOSSIANS - day two

Paul wrote this letter because some leaders in the church started to teach

falsehoods. They were telling people to worship angels, look for mystical experiences, force them to observe certain religious feasts and telling them what they could eat and drink. They also started to teach things about Jesus which were untrue. Some said Jesus didn't have a real body. Some of their leaders made it seem as though they had new, secret knowledge of God that no one else had.

Look up and highlight 1:15-20.

Everybody has an opinion about Jesus. Colossians makes it very clear - Jesus is God's Son. Martin Luther explained it this way, "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord" (Small Catechism, explanation of the 2nd article of the Apostles' Creed). Colossians reminds our hearts and minds who Jesus really is! It's a great book to read when you are feeling weak, uncertain, confused or guilty.

Prayer - Gracious Father, the world is full of people who want to distract from what Jesus means to me. Keep my eyes fixed on Your Word and constantly remind me who You are! In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

1 THESSALONIANS - day three

A few weeks after Paul arrived in the city of Thessalonica, serious persecution



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A few weeks after Paul arrived in the city of Thessalonica, serious persecution

started. Believers in that city sent Paul away to be safe. Later, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to see how the new believers were doing. Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians to encourage the believers to stay close to Jesus despite the persecutions they faced. **Look up and highlight 4:13-18.**

“Those who are asleep” means those who died. What does verse 14 say about those who “have fallen asleep” (died) as believers? Now notice how Paul describes Jesus’ second coming at the end of time. What promise does Paul give us in verse 17? In this world, Christians will face trouble. But God will never let us go. He will give us the victory in Jesus!

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, nothing can separate us from You. When we go through difficult times, remind us of Your promises and keep us strong in the faith. Amen.

2 THESSALONIANS- day four

Paul wrote his second letter to the church in Thessalonica when he had heard they were being taught false notions about Jesus’ second coming. Some people were actually quitting everything in order to sit and wait for the end. Others were getting very scared, because they thought in the end, they would be judged and destroyed, not saved. **Look up and highlight 2:15.**

Not much has changed since Paul wrote this letter two thousand years ago. We live in troubled times as well. We need a spiritual toolbox of truths we can hang on to when times are tough. For this spiritual toolbox to work, it needs to be GOOD tools, built solidly from God’s Word of truth. What are some truths you need to keep on hand for your “Spiritual

Toolbox”? Write them down and find the supporting Bible verses to back them up. Highlight them in your Bible so you will always have them handy.

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, we face tough and difficult days. Help me to build a “Spiritual Toolbox” based on Your Word so that I may face these days with confidence. Amen.

1 TIMOTHY- day five

The early church did not have schools like our seminaries where they trained pastors. Paul mentored several young men to be pastors, including Timothy and Titus. When they couldn’t be with Paul in person, he wrote letters of advice and encouragement to them. When we read the books of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, we are reading Paul’s mail to them. **Look up and highlight 1:15-16.**

Remember Paul is writing to the pastors he is mentoring. He explains that effectiveness with the Gospel is not based on personality or sinlessness. On the contrary, how does Paul describe himself in these verses? How does God continue to use your pastor (who is also a sinner) to impact others with the Gospel? How does God continue to use you (a sinner)?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, I am a sinner like everybody else. I trust in Your mercy to make me right. Use me to make a difference in someone’s life with the Gospel. Amen.

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