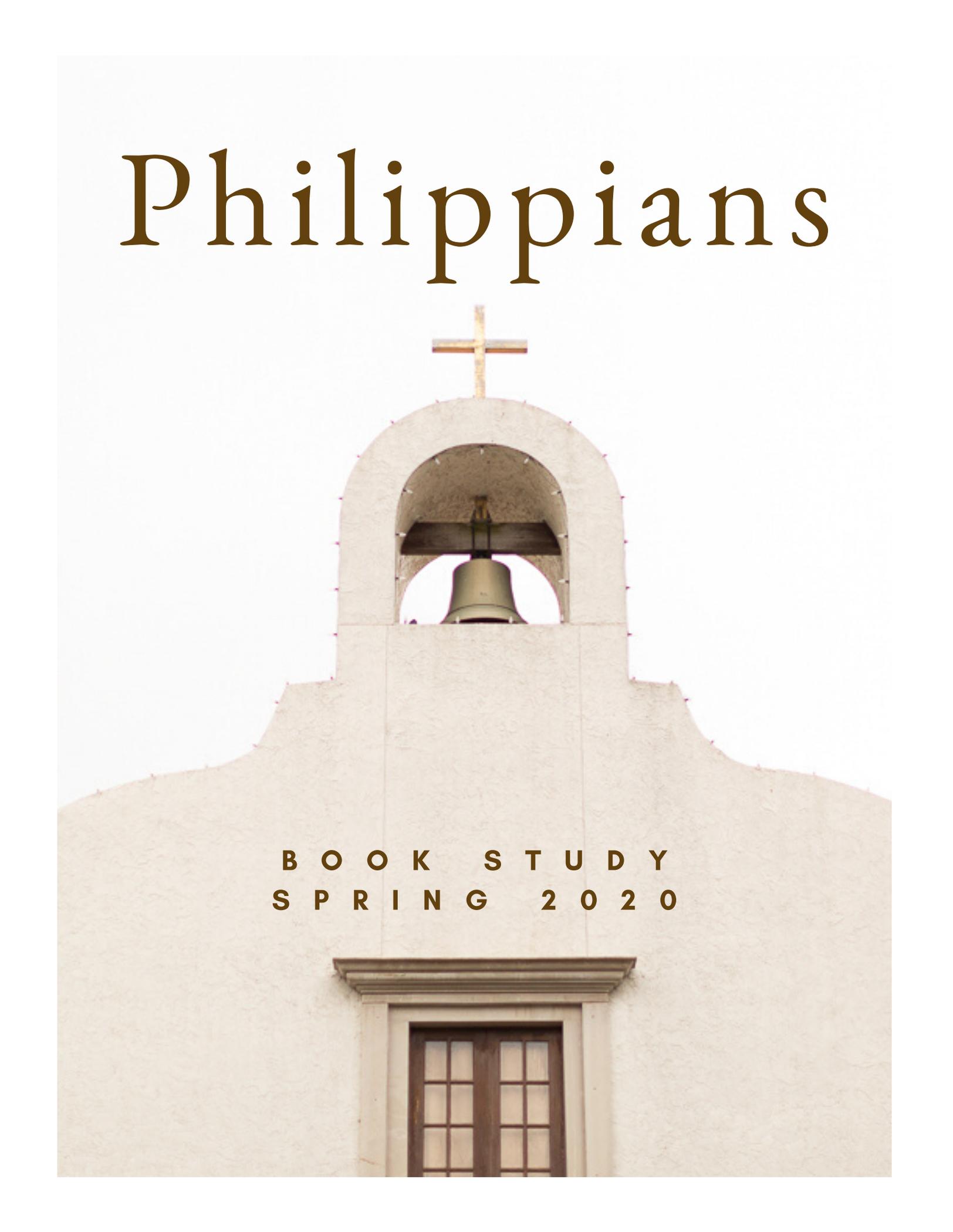


Philippians



B O O K S T U D Y
S P R I N G 2 0 2 0

Philippians I

Week 1, Chapter 1: Change of Plans...

Paul's plans changed. He was in the middle of his vibrant ministry when he was abruptly plucked from his normal life and thrown into jail. He went from being around people 24/7 to being in full isolation. He went from traveling non-stop, to being stuck and stationary. He was alone-- without his church, his friends, his fellow disciples. I don't think it's a stretch to assume that he felt the pangs of disappointment during this time. He was forced to figure out who he would be when he was alone and imprisoned. Would he dwell on his disappointment, pining over what might have been had he not been imprisoned? Or would he get creative in making the best of his situation? Paul adjusted to the change and focused his energy in sharing the gospel with the prison guards and other inmates. He wrote this letter to the Philippians, from prison, encouraging *them* to take heart and keep growing in their faith. In short, Paul was the same person when he was alone in isolation as he was out in public.

Ask: How are you adjusting to change in this season?

Can you say that you are the same person at home as you are in public?

Reading Guide:

Day 1: Phil 1:1-11

Day 2: Phil 1:12-18

Day 3: Phil 1:19-26

Day 4: Phil 1: 27-30

Day 5: Phil. 1:1-30

Notes: (Jot down thoughts, questions, verses that stood out to you)

Philippians 2

Week 2, Chapter 2: Living in a Manner Worthy of the Gospel...

Paul encourages the Philippians to continue to work out their salvation by looking to Jesus as their model for living in a manner worthy of the gospel. Jesus was humble and put the needs of others above his own. It sounds easy enough to do, until it's not easy at all. If we are honest, some people are easier to love and serve than others, but loving and serving people well is one way for us as believers to be light in a crooked and twisted generation.

Ask: How are you putting the needs of others before your own in this season?

What makes it difficult to do this?

Reading Guide:

Day 1: Phil. 2:1-4

Day 2: Phil. 2:5-11

Day 3: Phil. 2:12-18

Day 4: Phil 2: 19-30

Day 5: Phil. 2:1-30

Notes: (Jot down thoughts, questions, verses that stood out to you)

Philippians 3

Week 3, Chapter 3: Change in Perspective...

Paul warns the Philippians against the temptation to seek after fleeting things rather than eternal things. He reminds the Philippians that achieving a certain status in the eyes of the world pales in comparison to being found in Christ. He says that his righteousness or “status” isn’t found in what he accomplishes, but rather in what Jesus has already accomplished. The pressure is off him to be perfect!

Ask: How is Paul’s message about what actually matters different from the message we hear from culture?

Reading Guide:

Day 1: Phil. 3:1-4

Day 2: Phil. 3:5-11

Day 3: Phil. 3:12-16

Day 4: Phil. 3:17-21

Day 5: Phil. 3:1-21

Notes: (Jot down thoughts, questions, verses that stood out to you)

Philippians 4

Week 4, Chapter 4 Non-Contingent Contentment

Paul concludes his letter to the Philippians by sharing the keys to battling anxiety and discontentment. Surprisingly enough, Paul shares that contentment isn't contingent (dependent) on our circumstances, what we do or don't have, how we are or are not perceived by those around us. Rather, Paul says that the ultimate source of contentment is found in Jesus. Since Jesus is with us all the time, we have contentment in reach. Since Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb.13:8) contentment is secure. The man who has had nearly everything in his life stripped away, encourages his readers to look to Jesus for contentment in times of plenty as well as in times of want.

Ask: Consider your levels of happiness and contentment; are they circumstantial or consistent?

What causes those levels to fluctuate?

Reading Guide:

Day 1: Phil. 4:1-5

Day 2: Phil. 4:6-9

Day 3: Phil. 4:10-13

Day 4: Phil. 4:14-23

Day 5: Phil. 4:1-23

Notes: (Jot down thoughts, questions, verses that stood out to you)