

Sunday, May 10, 2026

THE CHURCH IN PHILIPPI

Philippians 1:1-18a

KIDS
3RD-6TH

NL

Key Verse:

I thank my God every time I remember you.
Philippians 1:3

The Point:

The proclamation of the gospel of Christ brings joy and thanksgiving even in difficult circumstances.

Making Connections:

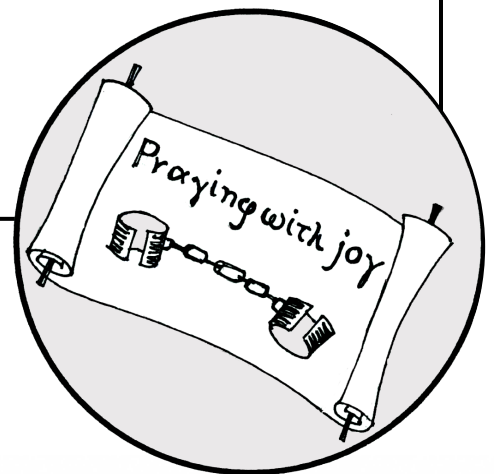
Living in Hope

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Letters

Spiritual Practice:

Prayer



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Paul tells the people in the church at Philippi that even though he is imprisoned, he is still full of hope and confidence that God is working among them. Paul rejoices as the gospel of Christ continues to spread.

Story Summary:

The Church in Philippi

When Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, much of his ministry was taking place almost among Gentiles as there was not a large Jewish population in the area. Yet Paul begins his letter to the church in Philippi by calling these non-Jews “saints.” The original Greek word literally means “holy ones.”

Paul is thankful for the work of the people in Philippi in spreading the story of Jesus. Paul is certain that this sharing of the gospel will also be fruitful for the church, and the Christians there will continue to learn and grow. As they continue to share and preach and teach, their own love overflows, leading them into even greater knowledge and joy.

Although Paul writes this letter while imprisoned, the tone is full of joy and love as he praises the church in Philippi. Paul uses this as another opportunity to spread the gospel rather than a time to be silent.

The Point

The proclamation of the gospel of Christ brings joy and thanksgiving even in difficult circumstances. We all struggle through difficult times in our lives, and the people of the Bible were no different. As Paul writes his letter to the Philippians, he is in prison. Because Christianity was not yet a legal religion in the Roman Empire, the Philippian Christians were meeting in secret in small house churches. The lives of these early disciples were difficult, but Paul praises and encourages them for keeping the joy of the gospel of Christ with them always.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Letters

This passage contains the opening of the letter to the Philippians. Letters in ancient times followed a formula, beginning with the sender, the addressee, and a greeting. The opening of the letter functions as a snapshot of the whole letter, helping the audience to get a feel for what Paul will say. This letter is written specifically for this community and its situation. It is meant to be read aloud, putting it in a similar category as a sermon or speech. Letters written by Paul or in Paul’s name make up a big portion of the New Testament, along with the four Gospels, the Book of Acts, letters written by other church leaders, and the Book of Revelation.

Spiritual Practice: Prayer

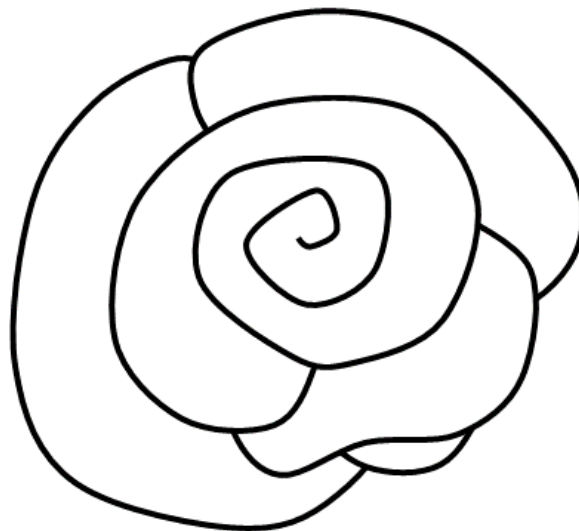
Paul says that he is “constantly praying in joy” for the Philippians. It is easy to remember to pray while at church, or before a meal or at bedtime. What does it mean to pray constantly? How can we make our life itself a prayer?



Mother's Day Word Search

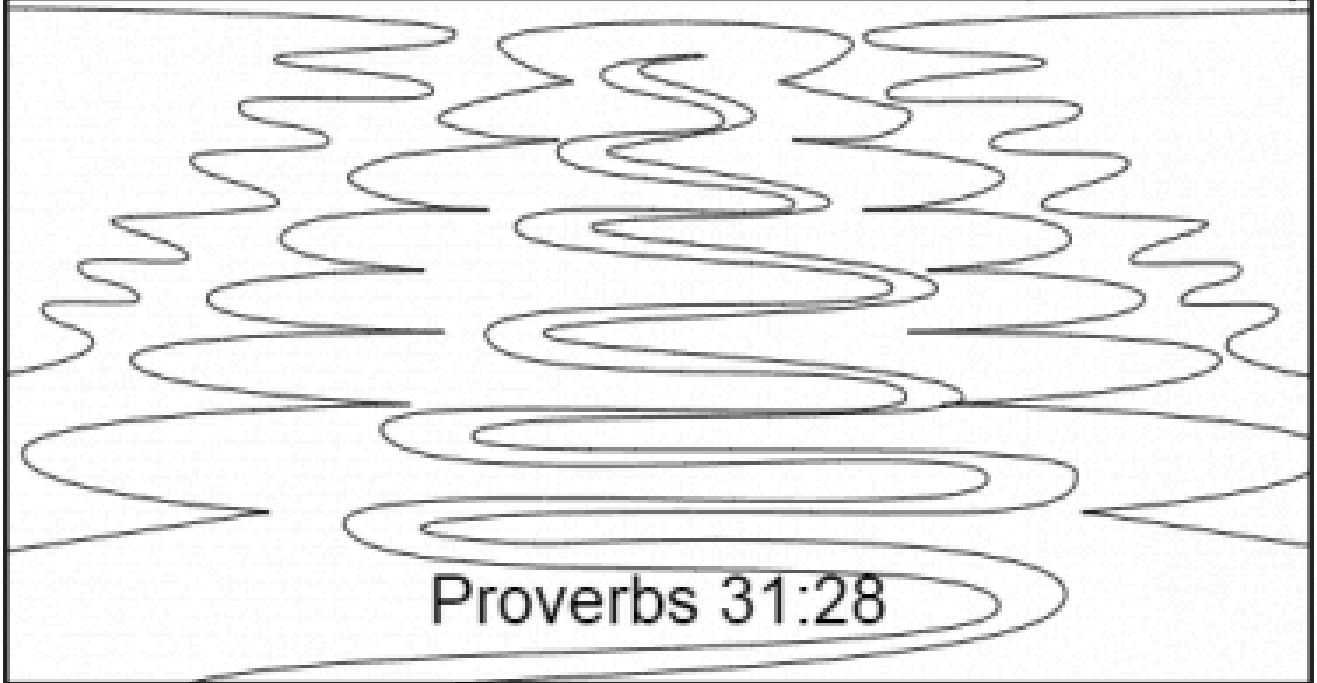
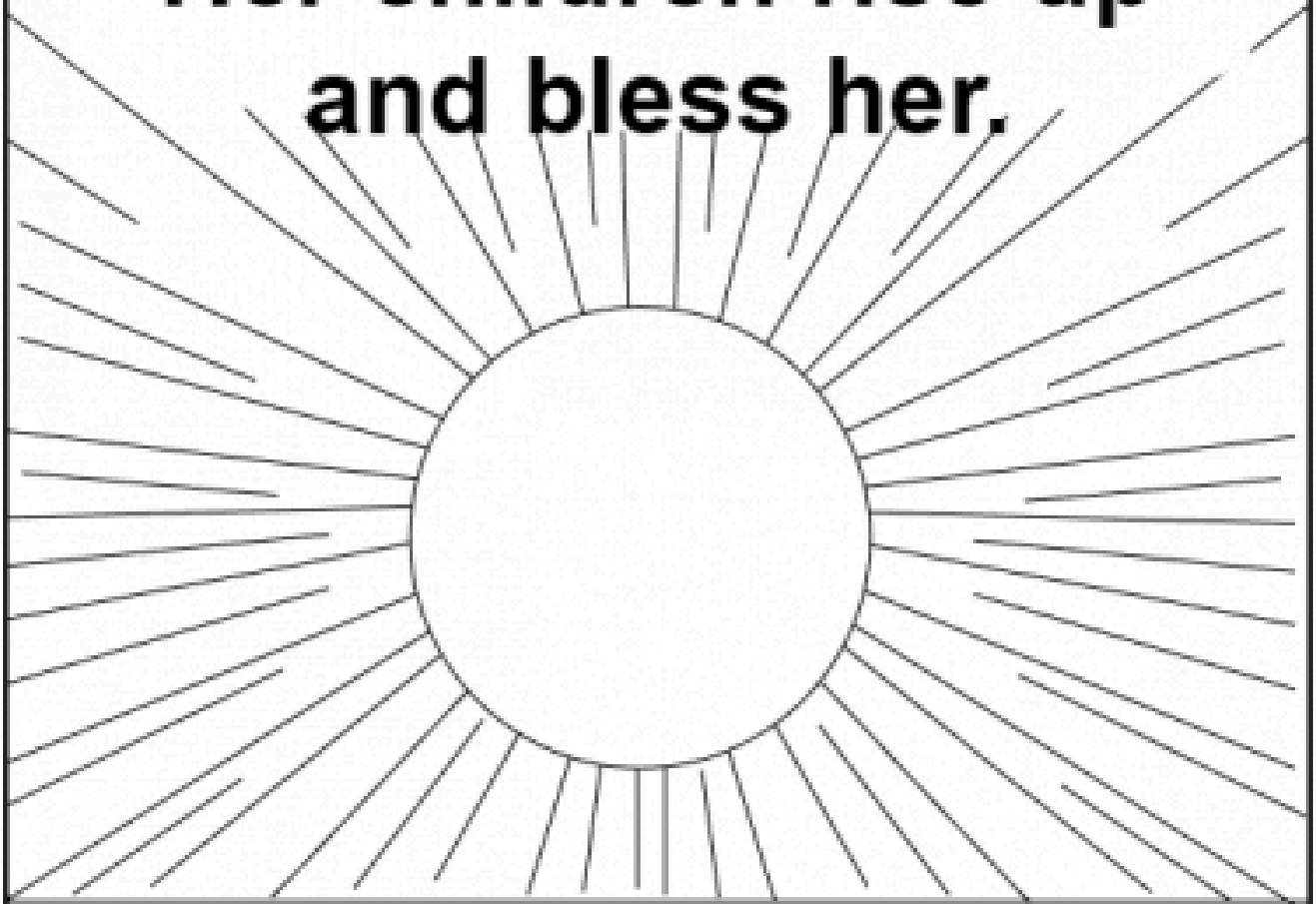
R H H I A Z E B A P M Y S S C
L E E E R P L V Q J R A T P A
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I D N E T S I L I C I H F L I
T H A N K V G A S T T A R R O
C O M M A N D M E N T H T S N
Y E B O Y F P L E A S E S E S

APPRECIATE
BLESSED
CARNATIONS
COMMANDMENT
EXAMPLE
FORGIVE
GIFTS
HELP
HOLIDAY



HONOR
LISTEN
LOVE
MOTHER
OBEY
PLEASES
RESPECT
SPECIAL
THANK

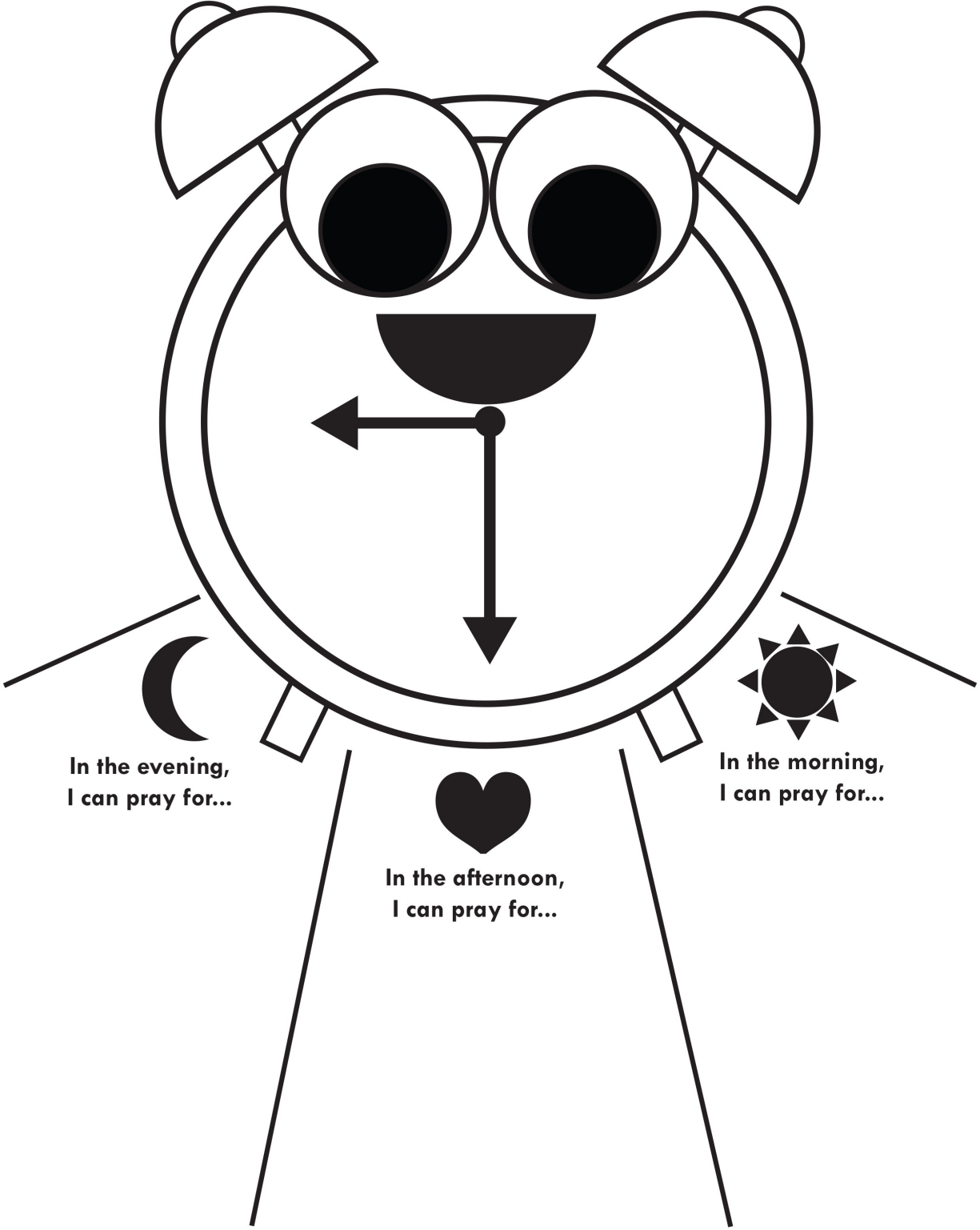
**Her children rise up
and bless her.**

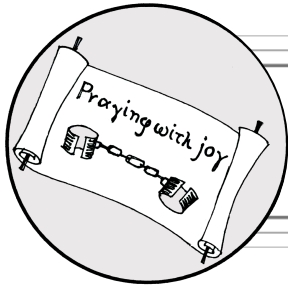


Proverbs 31:28

CONSTANTLY PRAYING WITH JOY

Pray around the clock.





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

Lesson #4-34
Philippians 1:1-18a

LAST WEEK

Paul continued his missionary journey around the Mediterranean in Athens, where he challenged the cultural practices of the time (Acts 17:16-31).

THIS WEEK

Despite his imprisonment for preaching the gospel, Paul rejoices in the Philippians and rejoices even more that the gospel of Christ continues to spread (Philippians 1:1-18a).

STORY SUMMARY

The Church in Philippi

Paul begins his letter to the church in Philippi by calling the Christians there saints, or “holy ones.” Paul is thankful for the work of the people in Philippi in spreading the story of Jesus. Paul is certain that this sharing of the gospel will also be fruitful for the church, and they will continue to learn and grow. Although Paul writes this letter while imprisoned, the tone is full of joy and love. Paul sees this as another opportunity to spread the gospel.

PRACTICE PRAYER

Paul says that he is “constantly praying.” It is easy to remember to pray at church, before a meal, or at bedtime. What does it mean to pray constantly? As a family, find something that each family member can keep with them: a stone in a pocket, safety pin on a jacket, etc. Every time you see or touch it, say a prayer, even if it is just “Thank you, Jesus!”

NEXT WEEK

Paul continues his letter explaining that, despite his equality with God, Jesus chose the path of humble humanity, for which God exalted him above everything in heaven and earth (Philippians 2:1-13).

THE POINT

The proclamation of the gospel of Christ brings joy and thanksgiving even in difficult circumstances.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Letters

This passage contains the opening of the letter to the Philippians. Letters in ancient times followed a formula, beginning with the sender, the addressee, and a greeting. The opening of the letter functions as a snapshot of the whole letter, helping the audience to get a feel for what Paul will say. This letter is written specifically for this community and its situation. It is meant to be read aloud, putting it in a similar category as a sermon or speech. Letters written by Paul or in Paul's name make up a big portion of the New Testament, along with the four Gospels, the Book of Acts, letters written by other church leaders, and the Book of Revelation.

Family Discussions

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- † Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- † What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- † What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Philippians 1:1-18a

Despite his imprisonment, Paul rejoiced in the Philippians and that the gospel continued to spread. Share what you are thankful for about each family member. Close with prayer for each person.

Monday—Read Philippians 1:18b-26

Paul’s reason for happiness: To live is to serve Christ in fruitful labor; to die is to be with Christ. Share one thing about your faith that makes you happy.

Tuesday—Read Philippians 1:27-30

Paul urged the Philippians to work to spread the gospel, even when doing so leads to suffering. Stand shoulder to shoulder as you read this passage.

Wednesday—Read Galatians 1:11-24

Even before he was born, God set apart Paul to proclaim the good news to the Gentiles. Look at a map online to find the locations Paul mentions in this text.

Thursday—Read Galatians 2:1-10

The original apostles and Paul decide to work together. What is one way that you can help people who are poor this week?

Friday—Read Galatians 2:11-14

Paul called Peter out for hypocrisy. What is one thing that you do or do not do as a Christian that might look odd to nonbelievers?

Saturday—Read Galatians 2:15-21

Our relationship with God is not built on our actions. It does not matter what you do or do not do; Jesus will always love you. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for this amazing love.