

ACTS EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, October 1, 2023 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 34 | **Philippians:** *Joy in All Circumstances* Philippians (Acts 16:11-40)

True **JOY**

happiness v. joy 4:4 Ecclesiastes

thankfulness 1: 3-11; 4:6 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

comes from **PARTNERING** in the Gospel

giving 4:14-19

encouraging one another 2:1-4

and keeping the **MINDSET** of Christ.

intentional thinking 2:3-8; 4:8

the choice to rejoice 4:4-7; 1:12-18

Text us at **833-271-8805**.
Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "Pray for..." followed by your request.
Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE *Philippians*

Each time Paul wraps up his ministry to a church or individual in Acts whom he later writes a letter to, we'll take a week to give an overview of what he wrote to them. **This week we're in Philippians.**

Where in Acts?	Acts 16:11-40
Why did Paul write them?	Paul wrote to thank them for their generosity and partnership, encouraging them to have the mind of Christ.
Key Verses	1:21 – to live is Christ 2:3-11 – have the mind of Christ 3:8 – everything pales to knowing Jesus 4:8 – be intentional in your thinking
Basic Outline	SECTION 1: Joy in Suffering (1:1-26) SECTION 2: Joy in Serving (1:27-2:30) SECTION 3: Joy in Believing (3:1-4:1) SECTION 4: Joy in Giving (4:2-23)
Noticeable Mentions	Joy/Rejoicing → 26 times Mindset/Focus/Thinking → 18 times Sin → 0 times

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life groups Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's two totally *random* questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer at least one:

1. What scared you the most when you were young?
2. If you knew you wouldn't get hurt, would you rather skydive or view shark unclosed in an underwater cage?

Priming the Pump...

- As you think back on this week's message, what one or two statements or points are most important for you to remember and why?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.

1. As followers of Christ, our salvation is past, present, and future. It's **past**, in that it was accomplished by Jesus 2,000 years ago through his life, death, burial, and resurrection. It's **future** because one day Jesus will return and take us to be with him for eternity, saved from God's wrath. — *But what about the present?* Do you struggle living out your salvation today? (See Philippians 2:12)

*** I (Pastor Josh) challenge you to be real and honest for a moment with your group... with no judgment... Do you ever wonder if the promises of Scripture are actually true? Do you ever question if they're really helpful in the present, **right now** in life? — Talk about this with your group. Be honest. With no judgment.**

2. Many of us have heard of joy like Paul writes about to the Philippians, but find ourselves unhappy most of the time. We really do believe God's promises, but it feels like something is missing. Pastor Josh said this week that "we choose the extent to which we experience joy". In other words, joy is the result of a choice. It's a mindset. Do you agree? Or is he crazy?
3. Let's look at the Israelites for an example of a poor mindset. God called them out of Egypt to possess the land he had promised to them (Exodus 13-14). *But what should have been an 11-day journey turned into a 40-year journey through the wilderness!* — Find an easy-to-read translation on

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible "home", we challenge you to pursue **three things**:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Philippians 2:3-8 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

³ Do **nothing** from **selfish ambition** or **conceit**, but in **humility count others more significant** than yourselves. ⁴ Let **each** of you **look not only** to his own **interests**, but **also** to the **interests of others**. ⁵ Have this **mind** among yourselves, which is yours in **Christ Jesus**, ⁶ who,

though he was in the **form** of God, did not **count equality** with God a **thing to be grasped**, ⁷ but **emptied** himself, by **taking the form** of a **servant, being born** in the **likeness** of men. ⁸ And **being found in human form**, he **humbled** himself by **becoming obedient** to the point of **death**, even **death** on a cross.

C R B E M P T I E D E A T H
O M E P U D T D Q B T J D A
U M I N D J E S S O H E Y L
N O N L Y E A C H R I S T S
T O G R A S P E D N N U J O
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N H U M A N O T H I N G N L
G S J I N T E R E S T S R T

life groups Study Guide (continued)

YouVersion like the **NirV**, **NLT**, or the **Message** and read **Deuteronomy 1** with your group. (Even better, **also read Numbers chapters 13 & 14**).

- What was the mindset of the Israelites?
 - Who was bigger in their mind: their enemies or God?
 - How did it affect their "present"? What were the consequences?
- Like the Israelites, there are times we can turn our thoughts to ourselves, our circumstances, our problems... looking for "*happiness in our happenings*." What's an example for you in the last week where your mindset has been like this?
 - How would obeying God's command in **Deuteronomy 8:2** help the Israelites in their mindset? How would it help you?

² And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. **DEUTERONOMY 8:2 (ESV)**
 - Once we adopt a right mindset to replace a wrong one, we must be determined to keep our thoughts headed in that direction. Read **Colossians 3:2** and **Philippians 4:4-8**. What are some practical examples of what it looks like to "set your mind" and think this way?
 - Instead of letting our minds get stuck on the hard things in our life, we can think about all that God has helped us get through. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**. What role does thankfulness play in our mindset?

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 (ESV)**

Close

As you close, take time to pray for each other. Pray for each other's mindset this week and think of ways you can encourage each other. Consider **dividing into separate groups of men and women** as you pray for one another.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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ACTS

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PART 34

Philippians: Joy in All Circumstances

PHILIPPIANS (ACTS 16:11-40)



We're Glad You're Here Today!



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<https://wawasee.today>