

WEEKLY GUIDE

JANUARY 17, 2021

1
ATTEND!

SUNDAYS
(IN PERSON OR ONLINE)

2
TALK!

DISCUSS THE
LESSONS

3
PRAY!

MAKE YOUR
REQUESTS
KNOWN TO GOD

4
DO!

PUT THE
LESSONS INTO
PRACTICE

BIBLE READINGS:

Philippians 4:4-9; Psalm 13, Psalm 14, and Psalm 16;
Revelation 12:11; Philippians 1:6

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7nd the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

PSALM 13:5

But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

PSALM 14:7

Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord brings back the captivity of His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

PSALM 16:9-11

Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

REVELATION 12:11

They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

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TIME FOR REFLECTION:

1. Did you take some time to reflect on last week's lesson? Which lessons from last week did you apply to your life? How did it go? Did you encounter any difficulty? Any areas of rejoicing?
2. Who was Paul writing to specifically in his letter to the Philippians? What was the theme? Where was Paul writing from? How do all these things come together to reinforce the overall message of encouragement Paul is sharing with these believers?
3. When you are struggling, do you find it helpful for someone to tell you to be happy? Why does this advice sometimes seem to pour salt on our wounds? How can we find joy in the midst of difficulty? What difference does it make to know Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter?
4. Why is it important to be gracious in adversity? Do you think it is easy to turn our thoughts inward rather outward? How might this impact our Christian witness? Why is it so important to guard our Christian witness when things are hard? When does our testimony, actions, and words speak the loudest? When things are going well or when they are not?
5. If you are told not to think of a pink elephant, what is likely to happen? When someone says, "Don't worry," what is the result? Why should we replace worry with something else like prayer, thanksgiving, or meditating on God's Word? Is this something you consistently do?
6. How does God guard our heart and mind in Christ? Of the list of things we are told to think on in verse 8, which one is the most helpful to you right now? For example, does dwelling on things that are false encourage the peace of God in your life? What are some false sources people turn to today? In what ways were you encouraged by the testimony that was shared?
7. What impacted you the most from the lesson today? What were your big takeaways? How will you put it into practice in your life this week? Also, it's not too late to visit our website and complete your "Hopes and Dreams" list.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Pray that you will grow spiritually regardless of what happens in the year 2021.
2. Pray that our country would turn to God and experience national revival.
3. Pray for the peace and prosperity of our city (Jeremiah 29:7).
4. Pray for our leaders to humble themselves, and pray, and seek God's face (2 Chronicles 7:14).
5. Pray for your neighbors, friends, and families to come to know Christ personally.
6. Pray for our nation to put away childish things and to stop living to satisfy worldly appetites.
7. Pray that the church would be a positive witness to a watching world.

THE REST OF THE WEEK:

1. Reach out. Share your faith with others. Encourage and pray for someone.
2. Read God's Word and allow His Spirit to reveal, correct, and encourage you.
3. Practice intentional acts of kindness. Love without hypocrisy. Be merciful!
4. Take time for yourself. Do something that brings you joy. Be thankful!
5. Do something outside your comfort zone. Let God use you this week!
6. Spend time with God in prayer. Let God fill you with His Holy Spirit.
7. Invite someone to church... online or in person!

MAKE 2021 YOUR BEST YEAR YET! HAVE A BLESSED WEEK!

