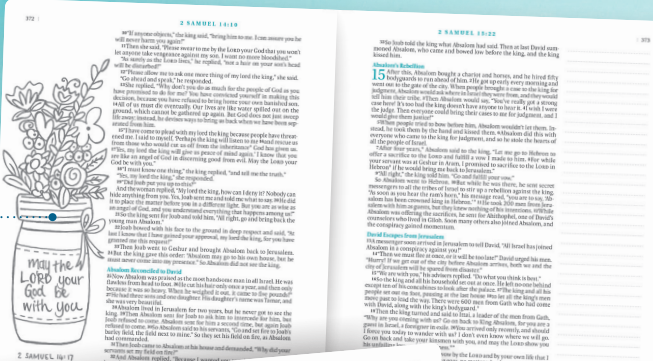


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Shine Brightly for Jesus.

GENESIS 1:1-5
I had just started school and had several doubts. This time he saw some clouds that were grey and dark. They looked like they were about to rain. He looked at the sky and saw a bright light. He thought, 'That's interesting. I've never seen anything like that before.' He looked at the clouds and saw a bright light. He thought, 'That's interesting. I've never seen anything like that before.'

GENESIS 1:6-10
The next day, the sun came out. The clouds were gone. The sky was blue. The sun was shining. The birds were flying. The animals were running. The people were working. The world was full of life. The sun was shining. The birds were flying. The animals were running. The people were working. The world was full of life.

GENESIS

Key Scripture Verses

1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 1:3 And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. 1:5 And God called the light 'day,' and the darkness 'night.' 1:6 And God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters above from the waters below.' 1:7 And God made the firmament, and called it 'heaven.' 1:8 And God called the waters above the firmament 'waters above the firmament,' and the waters below, 'waters below the firmament.' 1:9 And God said, 'Let the waters under the firmament be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' 1:10 And God called the dry land 'earth,' and the gathered-together waters 'seas.'

GENESIS 1:11-15
The next day, God said, 'Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every green plant that has seed, and every tree that bears fruit that has seed in it. And let it be so.' And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle, and creeping things, and beasts of the earth according to their kind, and man.

GENESIS 1:16-19
And God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater to govern the day, and the lesser to govern the night: and he made the stars.

GENESIS

Fun Facts

- The first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) were written by Moses.
- Genesis covers the first 12 chapters of the Bible and the first 12 chapters of the Bible.
- Genesis covers more than the remaining four books of the Bible and together recording 4,500 years of Bible history.

64 Fun Facts Lists (highlight interesting facts for each book of the Bible)

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Philippians

Key Scripture Verses

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.
Philippians 4:6

I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.
Philippians 1:6

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.
Philippians 4:8

PHILIPPIANS

Greetings from Paul

1 This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus.

I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders* and deacons.

2 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. **4** Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, **5** for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. **6** And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

7 So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. **8** God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

9 I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. **10** For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. **11** May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ*—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

Paul's Joy That Christ Is Preached

12 And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters,* that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. **13** For everyone here, including the whole palace guard,* knows that I am in chains because of Christ. **14** And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers* here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message* without fear.

15 It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. **16** They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. **17** Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. **18** But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice. **19** For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.

Paul's Life for Christ

20 For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. **21** For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. **22** But if I live, I can do

1:1 Or *overseers*, or *bishops*. **1:11** Greek with the fruit of righteousness through Jesus Christ.

1:12 Greek *brothers*. **1:13** Greek including all the *Praetorium*. **1:14a** Greek *brothers in the Lord*.

1:14b Some manuscripts read *speak the message*.

Fun Facts

- ★ Philippians is known for how warm and personal it is; it's like Paul is writing the believers in Philippi a thank-you note.
- ★ Lydia was the first person to become a Christian in Philippi; she and her whole household were baptized and probably started the first house church there (Acts 16:13-15).
- ★ Paul was imprisoned in Rome when he wrote this letter to the Philippians (1:7, 13; 4:22).
- ★ Paul expresses great joy in writing to the Philippians—"joy" appears 7 times and "rejoice" is used 6 times in this brief letter!
- ★ Epaphroditus carried gifts to Paul from the Philippians, and Paul sent Epaphroditus back to the Philippians with his letter for them (2:25-30; 4:18).



Jesus' Attitude

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.
Philippians 2:5

Read: Philippians 2:1-11

How can you have the same attitude as Jesus? Philippians 2 gives a description of Jesus' attitude. He left the glory of heaven to come to earth as a human. He didn't give up any of his deity, but he also took on full humanity so that he could understand and identify with us. He was born into the family of a simple carpenter and lived a humble life. He wasn't wealthy. During his ministry, Jesus didn't even have his own home; he often depended on the kindness of others for a place to sleep and food to eat. He willingly died a criminal's death on the cross even though he had done nothing wrong. Why did Jesus do all this? Because he loves you. He followed God's will in order to make a way for people to know God and to be forgiven for their sins. Jesus' attitude was one of humility, service, sacrifice, and selflessness. When you act in these ways, you become more like Christ.

Dear God, To have the attitude of Jesus means I'd be completely focused on others and not on myself. I'm not very good at doing that. Please help me remember every day that this is to be my goal. In Jesus' name, Amen

more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. ²³I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. ²⁴But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

²⁵Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. ²⁶And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

Live as Citizens of Heaven

²⁷Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. ²⁸Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. ²⁹For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. ³⁰We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

Have the Attitude of Christ

2 Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ²Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶ Though he was God,*
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges*;
he took the humble position of a slave*
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,*

⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor
and gave him the name above all other names,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Shine Brightly for Christ

¹²Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

¹⁴Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like

2:6 Or *Being in the form of God.* **2:7a** Greek *he emptied himself.* **2:7b** Or *the form of a slave.*

2:7c Some English translations put this phrase in verse 8.

bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. ¹⁶Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. ¹⁷But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God,* just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. ¹⁸Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.

Paul Commends Timothy

¹⁹If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. ²⁰I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. ²¹All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. ²²But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. ²³I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. ²⁴And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

Paul Commends Epaphroditus

²⁵Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. ²⁶I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. ²⁷And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another.

²⁸So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you. ²⁹Welcome him in the Lord's love* and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. ³⁰For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away.

The Priceless Value of Knowing Christ

3 Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters,* rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.

²Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. ³For we who worship by the Spirit of God* are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, ⁴though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

⁵I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

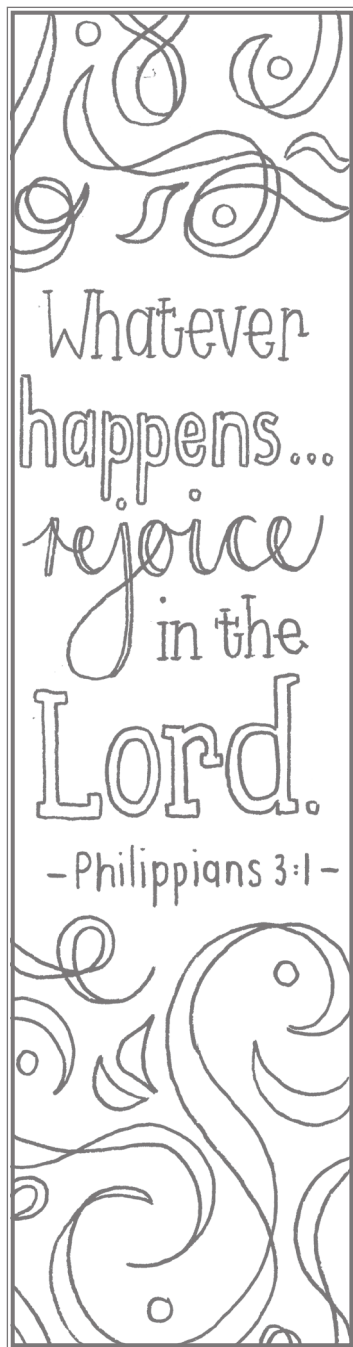
⁷I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ.* For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and experience the

2:17 Greek *I will rejoice even if I am to be poured out as a liquid offering.* **2:29** Greek *in the Lord.*
3:1 Greek *brothers*; also in 3:13, 17. **3:3** Some manuscripts read *worship God in spirit*; one early manuscript reads *worship in spirit.* **3:9** Or *through the faithfulness of Christ.*



You are to have the same attitude as Jesus—humble, serving, sacrificing, selfless. What traits do you already show? How can you develop more of those traits?





mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

Pressing toward the Goal

¹²I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,* but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

¹⁵Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. ¹⁶But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

¹⁷Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. ¹⁸For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. ²⁰But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. ²¹He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

4 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters,* stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.

Words of Encouragement

²Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. ³And I ask you, my true partner,* to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.

⁴Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! ⁵Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.*

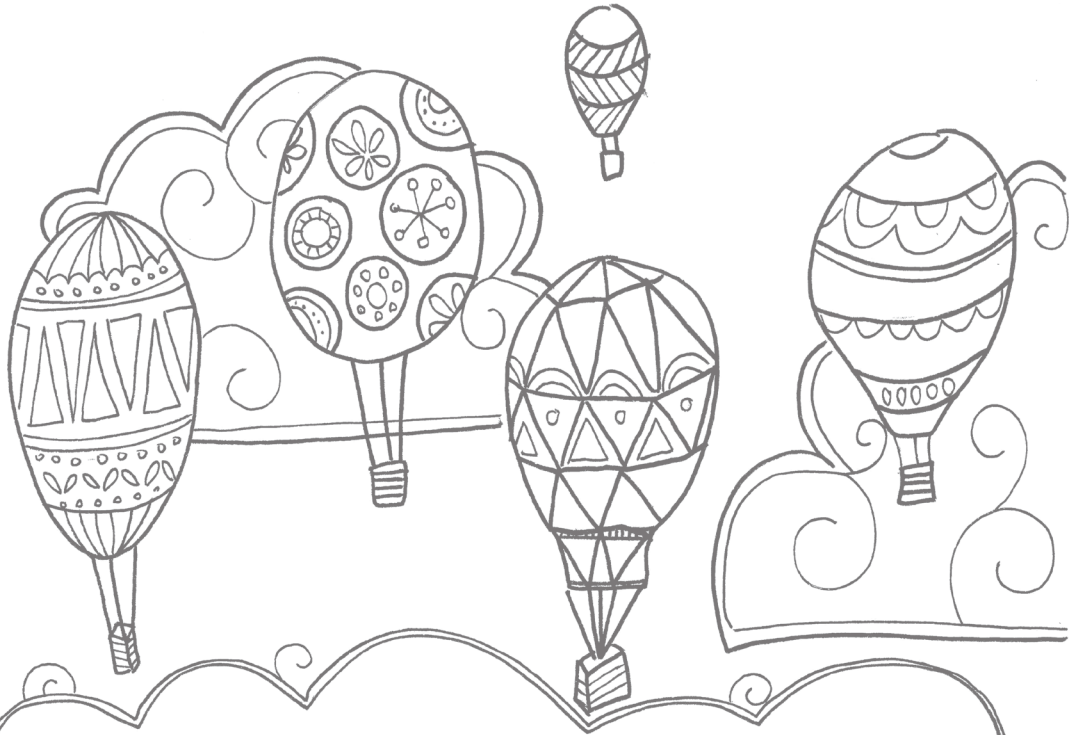
⁶Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

⁸And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. ⁹Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Paul's Thanks for Their Gifts

¹⁰How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. ¹¹Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. ¹²I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. ¹³For I can do everything through

3:13 Some manuscripts read *not yet achieved it*. **4:1** Greek *brothers*; also in 4:8. **4:3** Or *loyal Syzygus*. **4:5** Greek *the Lord is near*.



DON'T WORRY about anything;
instead, PRAY about EVERYTHING.
Tell God what you need, and thank him
for all he has done. Then you will
experience God's *peace*, which EXCEEDS
ANYTHING we can understand.
His *peace* will guard your
heart and minds as you live in
Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Fix Your Thoughts

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable.
Philippians 4:8

Read: Philippians 4:2-9

What you put in your mind eventually comes out in your words and actions. If you let negative thoughts settle into your mind, you will eventually speak those kinds of words and behave in those kinds of ways.

If you put honest and positive thoughts into your mind, that's what will show in your words and behavior. Fill your mind with thoughts about God and his love for all people. Think about how you can obey and serve God. Put good thoughts in your mind and good behavior will result. But you are in control of your thoughts.

That is an act of your will. You can decide to live for God by pushing negative thoughts out of your mind and filling your mind with good things. Meditate on those good things so your thoughts stay healthy.

One way to feed your mind with good, healthy thoughts is to read your Bible and memorize Bible verses. You are in charge of your thoughts and what you let settle into them. Focus on obeying God and putting others first.

Dear God, Help me to focus on positive, healthy thoughts. I know I'll be happier and more pleasant to be around if I can do this. In Jesus' name, Amen

Christ,* who gives me strength. ¹⁴Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty.

¹⁵As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. ¹⁶Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. ¹⁷I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.

¹⁸At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

²⁰Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen.

Paul's Final Greetings

²¹Give my greetings to each of God's holy people—all who belong to Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you their greetings. ²²And all the rest of God's people send you greetings, too, especially those in Caesar's household.

²³May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*

4:13 Greek through the one. **4:23** Some manuscripts add Amen.

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