



Stand Out



John 17

2017 Devotions

This devotional guidebook belongs to _____

Dear C.E. Mission Weeks participant:

It is our hope and prayer that the brief Bible studies contained in this Devotional Booklet will be used by the Holy Spirit to: 1) personally challenge and strengthen you in your relationship with Jesus Christ, and 2) enhance the spiritual growth and relationship building amongst your Youth Group members as you study together.

This is your copy to personalize and make notes in. Please strive for the deepest Scriptural truth for **you**, without settling for quick and shallow answers.

In keeping with our theme of “Stand Out”, we chose the book of Philippians as our guide for the week. As you meditate on the book, you might note we will not discuss each verse. We tried to take the verses that Paul wrote in his letter that fit with our theme, and how to put into practice what the speakers are bringing to you this week. We encourage you to study the entire book!

May our Heavenly Father thoroughly bless you as you strategize to know Him better and are refreshed by His Word as you serve Him this week.

Serving Him,

Your C.E. Mission Weeks Staff: Dave Coryell, Paul Markloff, Grace Messersmith, Colleen Ossman

STAND OUT

Sunday

Some Stuff to Know About the Book of Philippians:

The Author: Paul

Paul wrote over half of the books in the New Testament. In your reading of the New Testament, you will find that Paul is passionate about God. He not only wants to live for Christ, he wants others to know Him as well. Paul came from an elite Jewish background and spent several years persecuting believers, trying to destroy the early Christian church.

His zeal for persecution ended when God “sent him for a spin”. If you aren’t aware of how Paul became a Christian, I encourage you to read about his conversion experience in Acts (it’s mentioned three times: Acts 9:1-3; 22:6; 26:13). Once God changed Paul’s heart, he was on his way to becoming a great preacher, missionary and church planter. Paul was one of God’s key instruments in the rise of Christianity and the building of the early Church.

The Audience: Christians in Philippi

The apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians from a Roman jail cell. He was writing to the Christians in the church of Philippi whom he knew from his earlier years of ministry. Paul established this church and was keeping in contact with them. He had heard reports that they were suffering and that there was some false teaching in their midst. He wanted to set them straight and remind them of his foundational teaching.

Read the book of Philippians! Or at least get started with Chapter 1!!

Write down 3 things that got your attention:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Monday

STAND OUT

Philippians 1: 1-6

Why do you think Paul would call himself a “servant” of Jesus Christ?

What does a present day servant “look like”?

Who is someone in your life, that when you think of them, you break out in a prayer of thanksgiving, as Paul does over the believers in Philippi in verse 3?

Paul is confident that God not only started a good work in their lives, but he will continue to do so. Is there a great work that God has started in your life?

Philippians 1:9-11

In these verses Paul outlines a prayer for the Christians in Philippi.

How do you think God wants you to pray and show His love ?



Monday cont.

How do you live a life that makes Jesus attractive to others?

Who is someone that has made Jesus attractive to you and what is it about that person that is attractive?

Using verses 9-11 as an example, take a few minutes and thank God and pray for someone you love.

Your Thoughts and Comments.



Tuesday

STAND OUT

Philippians 1:15-18

Paul is talking about two types of preaching being conducted while he's in jail. One group has sincere motives while the other group has greedy motives. Paul recognizes the mixed motives but he's thrilled the message of Christ is getting out regardless of the motive.

What is an area of your life where you find yourself with impure motives on a regular basis?

Philippians 1:19-26

Why do you think Paul had such a great attitude while he was in jail?

Paul's pulpit became jail, because he preached while he was there. Where is your pulpit?

Paul's attitude is pretty amazing! He's saying, "if I am alive I can preach Jesus... if I'm dead I will be with Jesus! I can't lose!" Why do you think Paul can have this type of attitude?

How do you think someone gets to the point in his/her life where all they think about is being with Christ?



Tuesday cont.

Philippians 1:27-30

Answer the following question, based on verse 27: "For me to live in a manner that is worthy of the Good News about Christ, I would need to..."

Why do you think Paul encourages the Christians at Philippi to stick together? (vs 27)

Why do you think it is important for a church or youth ministry to stay united and all following a singular purpose?

What is the purpose of our youth ministry?

Your Thoughts and Comments:

Wednesday

STAND OUT

Philippians 2: 1-4

List the 8 actions that Paul asks the Christians of Philippi to exhibit. Circle those that need some work in your life.

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

In Paul's desire for Christian unity, he also seems to emphasize humility.

How would you define humility?

Do you know anyone that fits your description?

Philippians 2:5-8

Paul uses Jesus to illustrate humility. How is Jesus a model of humility?

Jesus set aside his deity and became man. What is so important about God becoming man?

Philippians 2: 9-11

How did God honor Jesus' obedience?



Wednesday cont.

Philippians 2:12, 13

Paul encouraged the Christians in Philippi to live in obedience. We all need this same encouragement. Is there someone in your life who can encourage you? Reach out and tell them of your need for accountability!

Philippians 2:19-24

Paul introduces his friend Timothy and comments on his genuine love for God. How would someone who knows you well describe your relationship with God?

Philippians 2:35-30

Paul had helpers, Timothy and Epaphroditus, in his ministry. Are you a “Timothy” or “Epaphroditus” in anyone’s work? If not, is there any ministry or minister you could help? What’s an action plan to help you get started?

Your Thoughts and Comments:

Thursday

STAND OUT

Philippians 3:1-11

What point do you think Paul is trying to make in these verses?

The “dogs” Paul refers to are false teachers who are trying to steer the Christians away from Paul’s original teaching. What is a present day example of a false teacher who is leading followers from the truth?

How can you protect yourself from false teachers?

Paul states one action and one attitude of a “real believer”. What are these?

By his own example, Paul tries to show that if godliness had to do with impressive credentials or following the rules, he has more reason to brag than anyone. Below is the list that Paul gives. Next to each credential write a present day “rule” that someone might try to keep to “earning” their way to God.

<u>Paul’s Credentials</u>	<u>What looks good for Christians today</u>
-Legitimate birth	(example: attending youth group)

-Circumcised on the eight day

-From an elite tribe

-A strict and devout follower of the Law

-A strong defender of purity

How does Paul view his credentials now that he’s a Christian?

What are a few things that you thought were important before Christ that are now gone?



Thursday cont.

What are some things that are too important (and should be gone) that keep you from growing in Christ?

What's your plan to get rid of these? Who is going to hold you accountable to this plan?

Complete the following sentence: "Compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, everything I once thought I had going for me is now...."

Paul wanted to know Christ personally. He didn't want to focus on following rules and rituals. Why do you think he was opposed to making a religion out of rules?

What would it look like for you to "know and be known by Christ"?

Philippians 3:12-16

How does it make you feel to know that the Apostle Paul doesn't have it "all together" when it comes to following Christ?

Paul considered the life of a Christian to be a journey, of knowing Christ better and following Him with more dedication. Where do you consider yourself to be along this journey? (circle one)

- At the beginning
- Off the path
- Moving slowly but moving
- Somewhere in the middle
- Running strong with my eye on the goal
- Darn near perfection

Your Thoughts and Comments:

Friday

STAND OUT

Philippians 3:20-4:1

Paul says that Christians have a different citizenship. What do you think he means by this?

Should a heavenly citizenship affect your behavior, priorities, attitude, relationships and goals?

Philippians 4:1-3

Are you more on track now than you were a few months ago? And a year ago? Why or why not?

Paul is becoming specific in some of the things he taught earlier (2:2) when he addressed two women in the church who seem to be in conflict. Why doesn't God want Christians holding grudges?

When you are in conflict with another Christian, whose responsibility is it to reconcile the conflict?

Paul encourages Syzygus (great name, huh?!) to help them resolve conflict. When is it appropriate to ask for help in resolving conflict?

Philippians 4:4-9

List three specific ways you can celebrate God every day:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Friday cont.

List some things you've been worrying about lately.

How does prayer help you when you worry?

It's been said that the human mind can't focus on two things at once. If that is true, when you think about God and pray to Him, you'll block out your worries until your focus changes again. What qualities of God can you think about when you're worrying?

Paul knew the importance of fillings one's mind with good things. List 10 things that are worthy of praise:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Spend a few minutes and ask God to help you replace your worries you listed earlier with things worthy of praise.

Verse 8 reads: Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

Why would this be an important verse to memorize and meditate on?

Your Thoughts and Comments:

STAND OUT

Sometime after you return home ...

Read Philippians 4:10-23

What do you see in these final verses that would help you continue to "Stand Out"?



Summer 2018

Youth Mission Weeks

Natural Disaster & Poverty Relief

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July 8-14

July 15-21

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worship God in my church regularly,
and humbly **lead** His cause
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P.O. Box 190, Gilbertsville, PA 19525
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