

# Letters From Heaven



Lesson 5

## Rejoice in the Lord!

**Theme:** Joy—Belonging to and serving the Lord

### Memory Verse

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

### Daily Bible Readings

- 1 Philippians 1:1-14
- 2 Philippians 1:21-30
- 3 Philippians 2:3-16
- 4 Philippians 3:1, 7-14
- 5 Philippians 4:4-13

**T**hink of what it would be like to spend a few days in jail, especially if you didn't deserve being there. The days would be loooooong and the nights would be lonely. Do you think you would be happy in jail?

Did you know that when the apostle Paul wrote the letter called Philippians he was in jail? Some people didn't like Paul telling others about Jesus, and they got him put in jail. Don't you think it would have been easy for Paul to feel sorry for himself or to be angry? He could have decided that preaching about Jesus caused trouble for him and that he would just stop doing it. But instead of feeling and acting this way, Paul was happy. He was

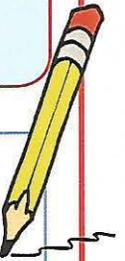
After this lesson you should be able to ...

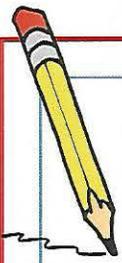
- Name two things we will do if we are living for Jesus.
- Describe Paul's attitude while he was in prison.
- Name at least five things Paul tells Christians to think about.

### Philippians 1:1-14

Paul began his letter with a prayer for the Philippians. Paul's prayer is found in Philippians 1 verses \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

Where was Paul when he wrote a letter to the church at Philippi?





### **Philippians 1:21-30**

Paul wanted to hear news that the Christians in Philippi were a) coming to rescue him, b) serving Jesus, c) having fun.

not happy to be in jail, but he was happy that being in jail gave him opportunities that he otherwise would not have had. From prison, Paul wrote to the Philippians about their being happy as Christians. Let's see what he wrote.

### **Living for Jesus**

At one time in his life, Paul did not believe in Jesus and tried to hurt people who followed Him. But on the road to Damascus, Jesus appeared to Paul and spoke to him. Paul learned that Jesus was alive because He had been raised from the dead. This changed everything! Paul knew he had been wrong about Jesus. Paul now knew that Jesus was alive, and he believed in Him. Paul was baptized and became a Christian. Jesus called Paul to be an apostle and to tell others about Him.

When Paul decided to live for Jesus, he decided to live for Him all the way. He wanted to know more and more about Jesus. He decided to follow His word and honor Him in every thing he did. Paul knew Jesus loved him so much that He died for him and for everyone. Paul believed that it doesn't matter where you are or what is happening; if you are living for Jesus, this is always right and best.

### **Thinking like Jesus**

Often the way we feel and act toward others is decided by how we think. Paul taught the Philippians to love and encourage each other. He knew this is not always easy, so he told them it would help to think like Jesus. But how did Jesus think?

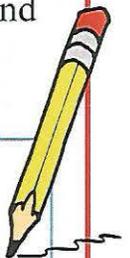
Paul said Jesus was God in heaven, and yet He was willing to come to the earth as a man. And Jesus not only became a man, but He also became a servant; and He served by dying on the cross for others. He was humble instead of selfish and looked out for others. Paul says that if we will be humble and think like Jesus, we will help others and not just do things for ourselves.

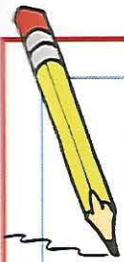
Paul also listed some things for Christians to think about: what is true, noble, right, and pure; also, what is lovely, worthy of respect, excellent, and worthy of praise. Do you think about things like this? It's easy to think about a lot of other stuff and forget to think about these important things.

### **Philippians 2:3-16**

To come to earth as a man and to die on the cross for others, Jesus had to be a) proud, b) mean, c) humble.

When people around us are doing wrong and we choose to do what is right to serve God, we will be \_\_\_\_\_ in the world.





### Philippians 3:1, 7-14

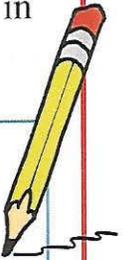
More than anything else, Paul wanted to know Jesus so one day he could a) get out of prison, b) be resurrected from the dead, c) have a lot of money.

Though it was hard at times, Paul pressed on. To do this he had to \_\_\_\_\_ what was behind him and \_\_\_\_\_ to what was ahead of him.

### Rejoicing in the Lord

Though Paul was in jail when he wrote Philippians, he was happy. Paul faced some hard things. Sometimes he had only a little money and food. Sometimes people made it hard for him to be a Christian. But even then, Paul was strong. He wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Because he believed in Jesus and followed Him, Paul was happy and strong even when life wasn't everything he wanted it to be.

Paul's body was on earth, but his heart was set on heaven. He knew Jesus is coming again one day and he could be with Him forever. Paul was happy not because he was in jail, but because He was in Jesus. We can be happy, too. We can rejoice in the Lord!

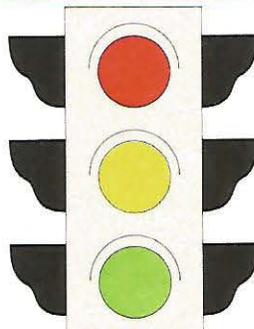


### Philippians 4:4-13

When we are afraid or worried, we should a) take a nap, b) hit a wall, c) pray to God.

Paul wrote, "I can do \_\_\_\_\_ things through Him who \_\_\_\_\_ me." Memorize this verse to say to your teacher.

I am happy to know Jesus.

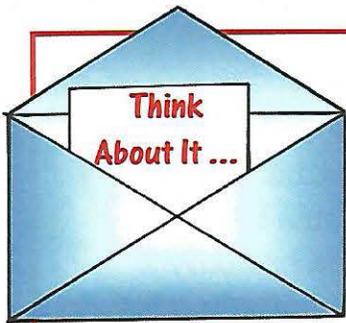


Put an X in the light that best describes you.

**Red — sometimes**

**Yellow — most of the time**

**Green — all the time**



Paul says we are to think about what is true, noble, right, and pure. Take time right now to think about how to do this. Write here two ideas you have that will help you think this way.

Without looking in your Bible, write down John 3:16.



Which book in the New Testament is about instructions for older and younger men and women.

On the map on the inside back cover, locate the Jordan River, the Dead Sea, and the Sea of Galilee.