

It's in the Mail

Philippians 1:1-11

1. Are you a letter writer? Do you love it or hate doing it? And what are the benefits and challenges to this kind of communication?

Optional:

For background, watch the [Bible Project's Overview of Philippians](#).

2. Read Phil 1:1-11.

3. From this introduction, what kind of relationship do you think Paul had with the Philippian church?

4. What is the source of Paul's joy (v.4)? Is this kind of joy something you have felt or seen in others?

5. Why is Paul confident (v.6)?

Optional:

Thinking deeper, why does Paul pray that the Philippians' 'love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight' (v.9) and at the same time be confident 'that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion' (v.6)? Why pray if God guarantees completion?

6. What does Paul mean when he says, 'all of you share in God's grace with me' (v.7)?

7. Have a go at teasing out the different elements of Paul's prayer in verses 9-11. If you have a big piece of paper, brainstorm on it the different elements as a group.

8. How could you use this prayer in verses 9-11 when praying for others?

9. Does the kind of partnership, that Paul describes with the Philippians, provide any insights for the partnerships that we have with other Christians in our life? What kind of partnerships do you aspire to?

9. What is one thing from this study that you might like to focus on this week?

10. Pray for each other, using the passage as inspiration for your prayers.