



### **Philippians Background and Introduction:**

**Who wrote this book and to whom was it written?** The apostle Paul wrote this book/letter to the believers in Philippi, located in northeastern Greece while under house arrest in Rome. Philippi was 10 miles inland from the Modern Greek port city of Kavala.

**When was this book written?** About AD 60 to 62 during the time Paul awaited trial on an appeal to the Roman emperor Nero.

**Why was this book written?** Paul wrote this book/letter to thank the Philippians for sending him money to help defray his living expenses as he awaited trial (see Philippians 4:10-18). Paul also wanted to warn the Philippian believers against false teachers and to urge greater unity among themselves.

**What is the background of this book?** Philippi, a Roman colony, was where Paul planted the first church on European soil (see Acts 16: 11-40) around AD 50. When Paul moved on, the church occasionally sent him aid, one of the few churches in those times to do so (Philippians 4:15).

**Why should you read and study Philippians?** If you have ever had trouble seeing how faith can be seen in everyday life, Philippians will provide a practical manual. It puts lofty truths into everyday practical terms. You will see the gamut of human experience including joy, bitterness, unity, arrogance, bickering and humiliation. Philippians will give you a glimpse into the Apostle Paul's heart and who was at the center of his heart, Jesus Christ.

### **Week 1: Confident In Christ**

**Icebreaker:** When you care for someone are you more likely to send a funny card or a touching card?

**Opening Discussion:** Looking back on your Engage and Grow notebook or your notes from the message, what stands out to you the most?

### **Digging Deeper:**

#### **Read *Philippians 1:1-11***

1. According to Philippians 1:6 what is Paul confident about?

2. How can Paul be so confident?
  
3. So how can we be confident that God is working in us? What might that look like in your life and in your day-to-day relationships?
  
4. Someone might say, "If God will finish this work He started, why do I need to do anything?" What would you say to them?
  
5. A Christian friend is going through a tough time. They do not feel confident that God loves them or is in control of what is happening to them. How would you respond to them?
  
6. Read Philippians 1:12-14. What do these verses teach us about how we can have confidence that God is always working even when we don't understand? Can you have the same joy as Paul?

**Moving Forward:** Follow-up reading: Ephesians 2:8-10

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 1:6: ...being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**Prayer:**