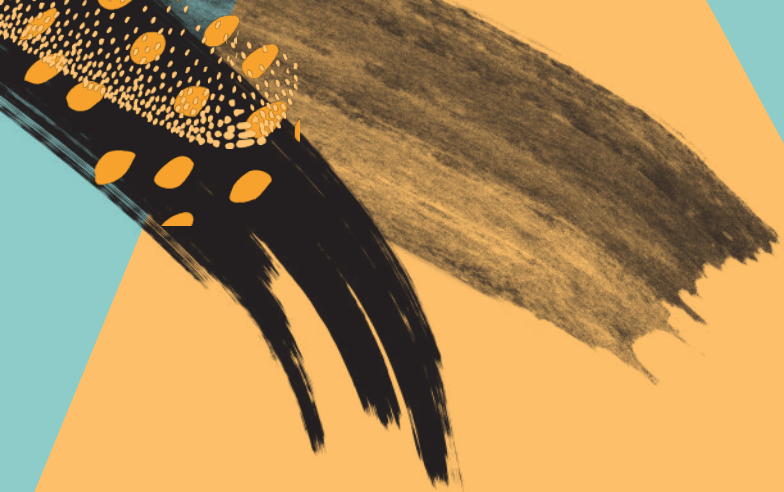




Philippians

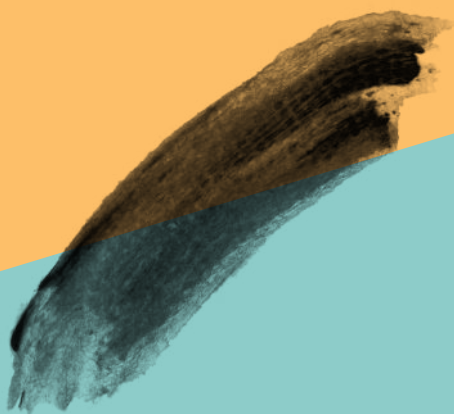
A 12-day devotional



Introduction

This Philippians devotional is designed to help you commune with God daily through a systematic intake of God's Word. The S.O.A.P. method is utilised to help you meaningfully engage with and profitably benefit from God's Word.

Please feel free to utilise this devotional according to your own time and at your own pace. This is simply a tool to help you with your daily Bible intake. The key is to get ourselves into the Word - and the Word into us!





The Plan

Day 1	Phil. 1:1-11
Day 2	Phil. 1:12-20
Day 3	Phil. 1:21-30
Day 4	Phil. 2:1-11
Day 5	Phil. 2:12-18
Day 6	Let's learn Scripture!
Day 7	REST
Day 8	Phil. 2:19-30
Day 9	Phil. 3:1-11
Day 10	Phil. 3:12-21
Day 11	Phil. 4:1-9
Day 12	Phil. 4:10-23

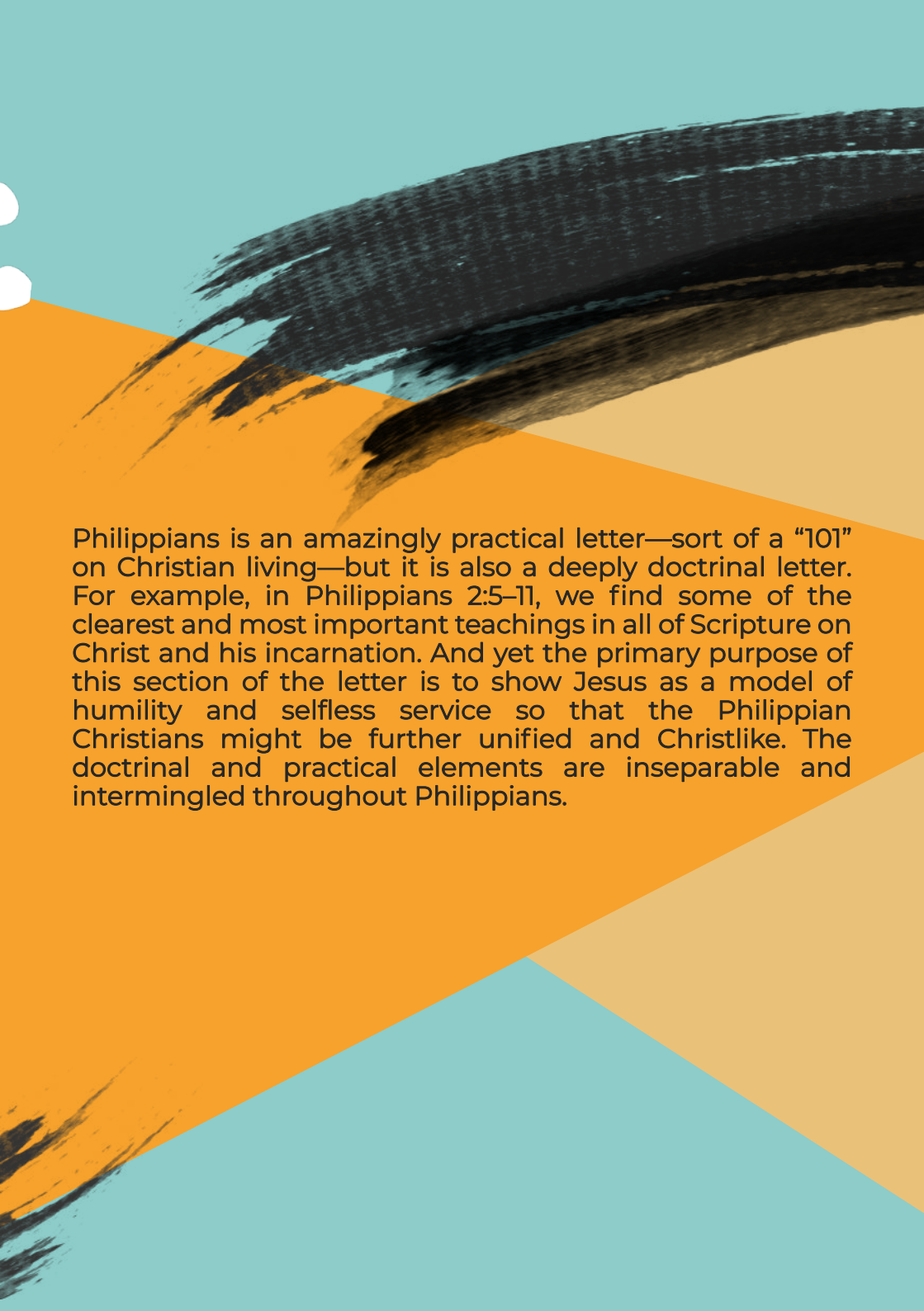


About the Book

Paul wrote to the members of the church at Philippi to thank them for their support and prayers, and to give updates on the welfare of Epaphroditus, Timothy, and himself.

Philippians is a letter of thanks and updates. It is also written to encourage the church members faith and growth. More specifically Philippians is written:

- to spur them on to progress in their Christian growth (Phil. 2:12; 3:12–17)
- to warn of those who proclaim another gospel (Phil. 3:2, 18–19)
- to reiterate the true gospel and encourage them to hold tightly to it (Phil. 3:3, 13–16)
- to encourage their unity and confront any lack of unity (Phil. 2:1–4; 4:2–3)
- to call them to joy and thankfulness and peace (Phil. 2:18; 3:1; 4:4–7)
- to plead with them to keep their eyes on Christ and the hope of heaven (Phil. 3:2–21)

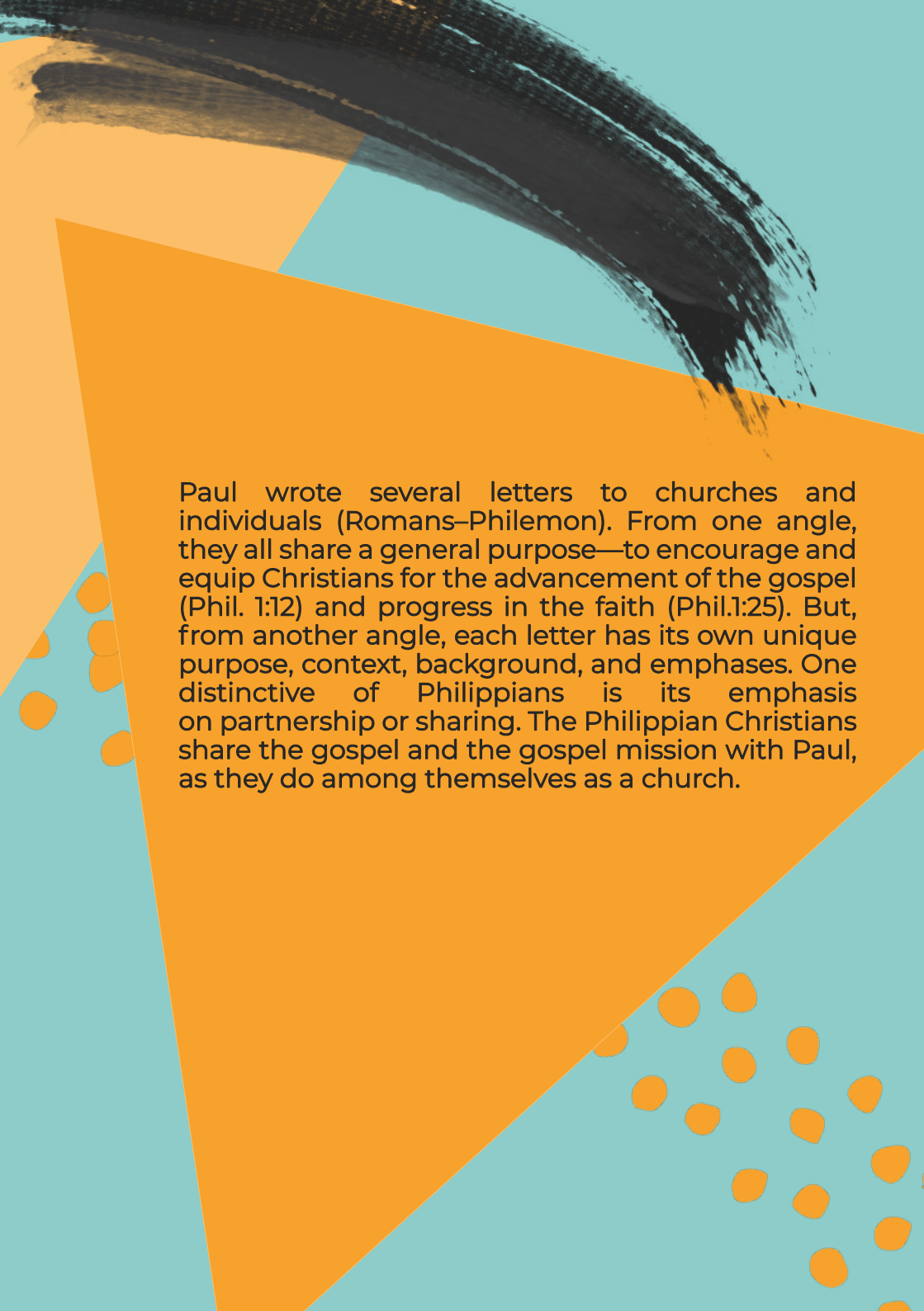
The background features a teal upper section and a lower section divided into orange and light orange geometric shapes. A large, dark, textured brushstroke sweeps across the top, partially overlapping the teal and orange areas. Another smaller, similar brushstroke is visible in the bottom left corner.

Philippians is an amazingly practical letter—sort of a “101” on Christian living—but it is also a deeply doctrinal letter. For example, in Philippians 2:5–11, we find some of the clearest and most important teachings in all of Scripture on Christ and his incarnation. And yet the primary purpose of this section of the letter is to show Jesus as a model of humility and selfless service so that the Philippian Christians might be further unified and Christlike. The doctrinal and practical elements are inseparable and intermingled throughout Philippians.



The Context

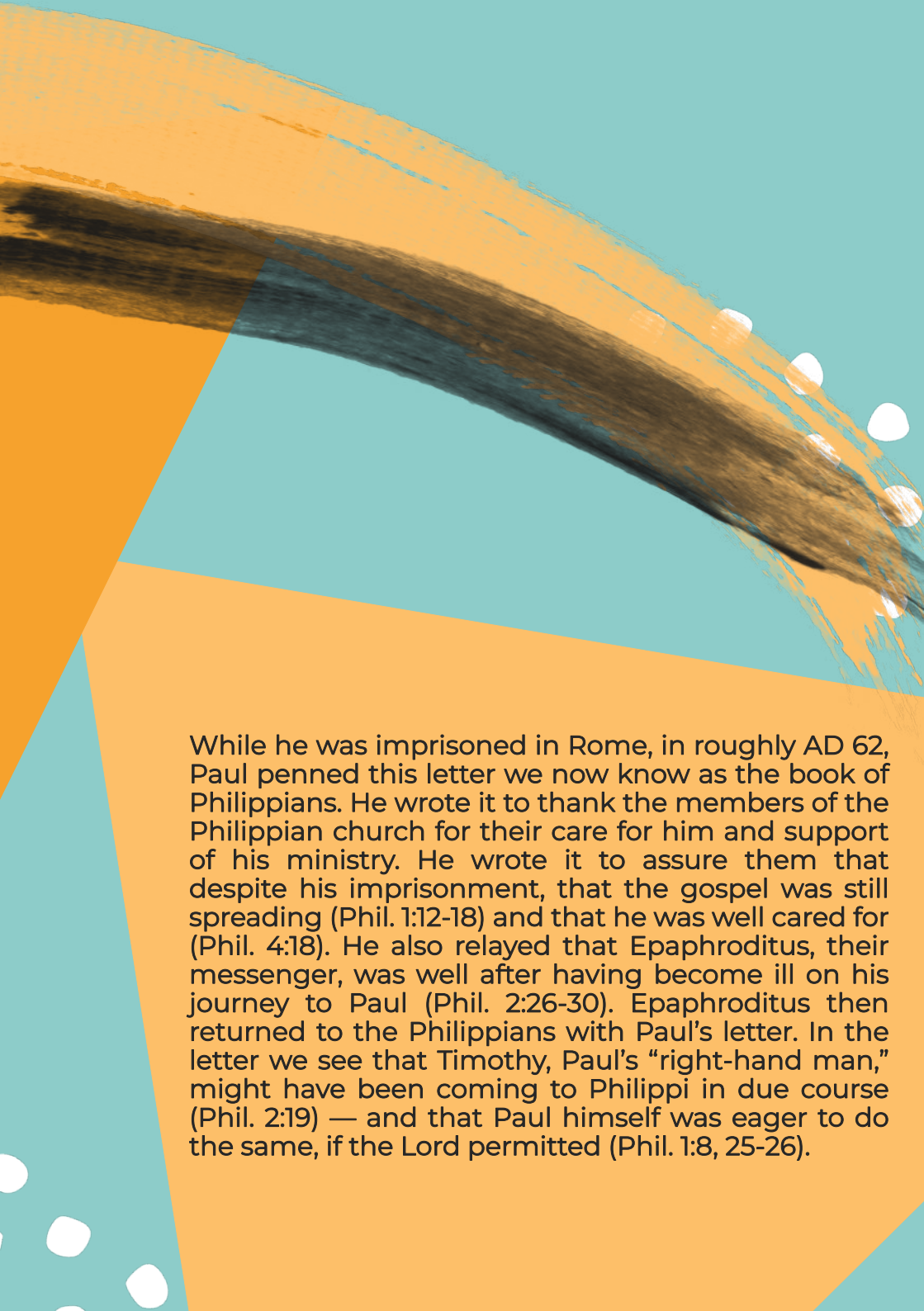
By the time Paul writes Philippians, the events recorded in the book of Acts have all come to pass. Of course, that means that the Messiah has come—living righteously, dying sacrificially, and rising victoriously. He has sent his followers into the world to proclaim the gospel, make disciples of the nations, and plant local churches. The book of Acts records that: 30 or so years of the gospel spreading and churches forming. The Kingdom of God has arrived but not yet in its fullness. It is both now and not yet fully come. Christians are redeemed, but must keep pressing on: standing firm in their confession, working out their salvation in Christian growth, resisting false teachers, embracing suffering and persecution, holding out the gospel of hope to the world, and committing to live out Christ's love and humility with each other in the church.

The background is a vibrant composition of teal, orange, and black. A large, thick black brushstroke curves across the top. A large orange triangle points upwards from the bottom left. The bottom right corner is teal with a pattern of orange polka dots. The text is centered within the orange triangle.

Paul wrote several letters to churches and individuals (Romans–Philemon). From one angle, they all share a general purpose—to encourage and equip Christians for the advancement of the gospel (Phil. 1:12) and progress in the faith (Phil.1:25). But, from another angle, each letter has its own unique purpose, context, background, and emphases. One distinctive of Philippians is its emphasis on partnership or sharing. The Philippian Christians share the gospel and the gospel mission with Paul, as they do among themselves as a church.

The Background

Paul had a long history with the Philippian Christians, beginning with the conversion of Lydia's family, a demon-possessed girl, and the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:14-40). Paul returned to Philippi at least twice, but mutual care and communication between the apostle and the Philippian church seem to have been regular. He prayed frequently for them with much thankfulness and affection (Phil 1:3-11). The Philippians stood with Paul, when others did not (Phil. 1:7; 4:14-16). In concern for Paul's present imprisonment (Phil 1:12-19), they sent one of their best men, Epaphroditus, to bring financial support and to minister to Paul's needs (Phil. 2:25).



While he was imprisoned in Rome, in roughly AD 62, Paul penned this letter we now know as the book of Philippians. He wrote it to thank the members of the Philippian church for their care for him and support of his ministry. He wrote it to assure them that despite his imprisonment, that the gospel was still spreading (Phil. 1:12-18) and that he was well cared for (Phil. 4:18). He also relayed that Epaphroditus, their messenger, was well after having become ill on his journey to Paul (Phil. 2:26-30). Epaphroditus then returned to the Philippians with Paul's letter. In the letter we see that Timothy, Paul's "right-hand man," might have been coming to Philippi in due course (Phil. 2:19) — and that Paul himself was eager to do the same, if the Lord permitted (Phil. 1:8, 25-26).

Glossary

Christ: Transliteration of the Greek for “anointed one” (equivalent to Hebrew Messiah). The term is used throughout the NT as a title for Jesus, indicating his role as Messiah and Saviour.

Circumcision: The ritual practice of removing the foreskin of an individual, which was commanded for all male Israelites in OT times as a sign of participation in the covenant God established with Abraham (Gen. 17:9–14).

Faith: Trust in or reliance upon something or someone despite a lack of concrete proof. Salvation, which is purely a work of God’s grace, can be received only through faith (Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:8–9). The writer of Hebrews calls on believers to emulate those who lived godly lives by faith (Hebrews 11).

Flesh: Depending on the immediate context, either skin (Lev. 4:11), a living being (Gen. 6:13), or sinful human nature (Rom. 8:3).

Gospel: A common translation for a Greek word meaning “good news”—that is, the good news of Jesus Christ and the salvation he made possible by his crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. Gospel with an initial capital letter refers to each of the biblical accounts of Jesus’ life on earth (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

Resurrection: The impartation of new, eternal life to a dead person at the end of time (or in the case of Jesus, on the third day after his death). This new life is not a mere resuscitation of the body (as in the case of Lazarus; John 11:1–44) but a transformation of the body to an eternal state (1 Cor. 15:35–58). Both the righteous and the wicked will be resurrected, the former to eternal life and the latter to judgment (John 5:29).

Sacrifice: An offering to God, often to seek forgiveness of sin. The law of Moses gave detailed instructions regarding various kinds of sacrifices. By his death on the cross, Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice to atone for the sins of believers (Eph. 5:2; Heb. 10:12). Believers are to offer their bodies as living sacrifices to God (Rom. 12:1).

S.O.A.P Tool

SCRIPTURE

Take time to meditate on the Scriptures for the day.

- Read the assigned Scriptures for the day.
- Meditate on the Scriptures for the day.

OBSERVATION

What do you see in the passage? What speaks to you?

- What do you observe from your reading of the Scriptures?



APPLICATION

What is one specific and practical way to apply God's Word in your life?

- Write down a specific and practical way that you can apply a truth gained from your reading of God's Word in your life.
- It could be a promise to claim, an encouragement to take to heart, a command to obey, a sin to avoid, etc.

PRAYER

Respond to God in prayer.

- Respond to God in prayer based on what you have read in His Word.
- Pray about matters that God has placed on your heart.
 - Prayer pointers: Give thanks to God for His goodness, pray for your church, pray for those in need, pray for your family, pray for self, etc.



Day 1

Scripture: Phil. 1:1-11

¹Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the
overseers and deacons: ²Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God in all my
remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all
making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the
gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he
who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day
of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all,
because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of
grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and
confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for
you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that
your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all
discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be
pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of
righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and
praise of God.

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 2

Scripture: Phil. 1:12-20

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death.

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 3

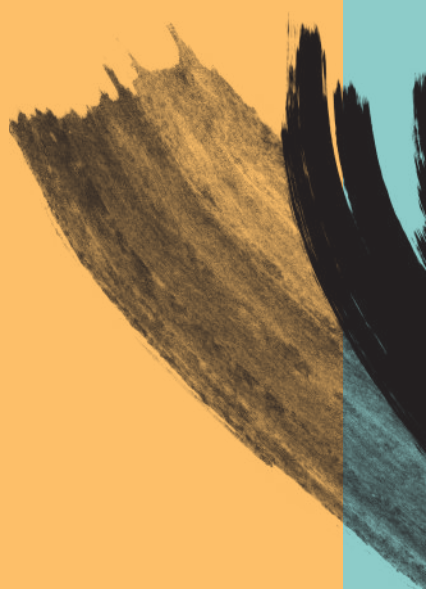
Scripture: Phil. 1:21-30

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



Day 4

Scripture: Phil. 2:1-11

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 5

Scripture: Phil. 2:12-18

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 6

Use this day to take time to memorise Scripture from
the book of Philippians!

Philippians 2:21 – 23

²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

Philippians 3:8

⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:13 – 14

¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6 – 7

⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:8

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything

Day 7

REST DAY

Day 8

Scripture: Phil. 2:19-30

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also. ²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honour such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 9

Scripture: Phil. 3:1-11

¹Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. ²Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:



Day 10

Scripture: Phil. 3:12-21

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained. ¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 11

Scripture: Phil. 4:1-9

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. ²I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have laboured side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Observation:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 12

Scripture: Phil. 4:10-23

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. ²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

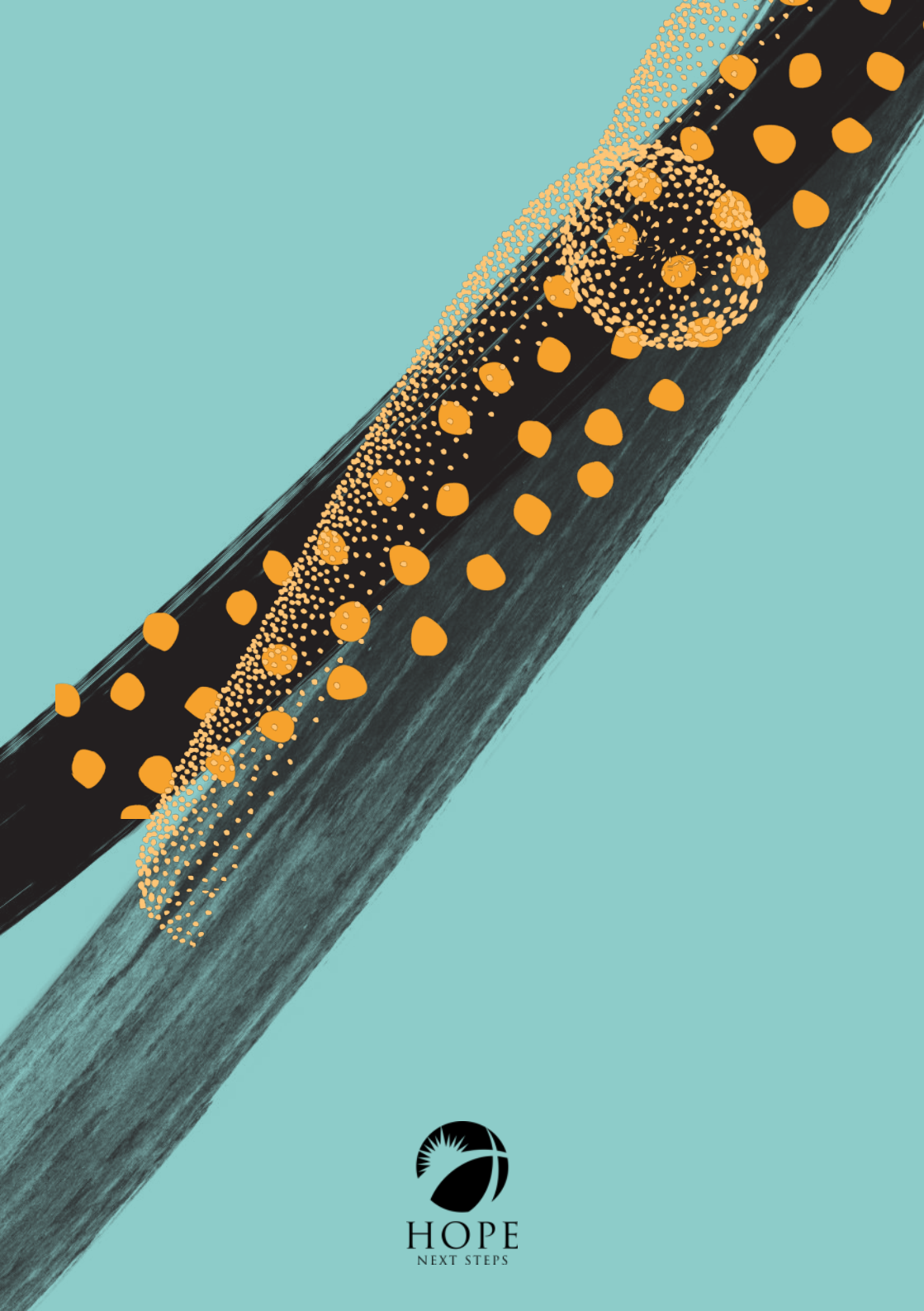
Observation:

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**What has
impacted me
from
Philippians?**



HOPE
NEXT STEPS