



DEAR CHURCH

PHILIPPIANS

Joy. Don't you love the sound of that word? The letter of Philippians is filled with words pointing us toward joy. The funny thing is, it was written from a Roman prison cell. One thing we can take from this letter is that joy has less to do with our circumstances and everything to do with the lens through which we see the world. Let's see what this letter still has to say to us.

Day 1 Read Acts 16:11-15 and Philippians 1:1-11

It seems Paul was quite close to the church in Philippi. How do you see this reflected in both of these passages? We can see from the end of the letter that the church continued to meet in Lydia's home even after he left, which means she would have had some sort of authority in the community. Why is this significant? What about Paul's prayer for the Philippians do you most appreciate?

Day 2 Read Acts 16:10-40 and Philippians 1:12-30

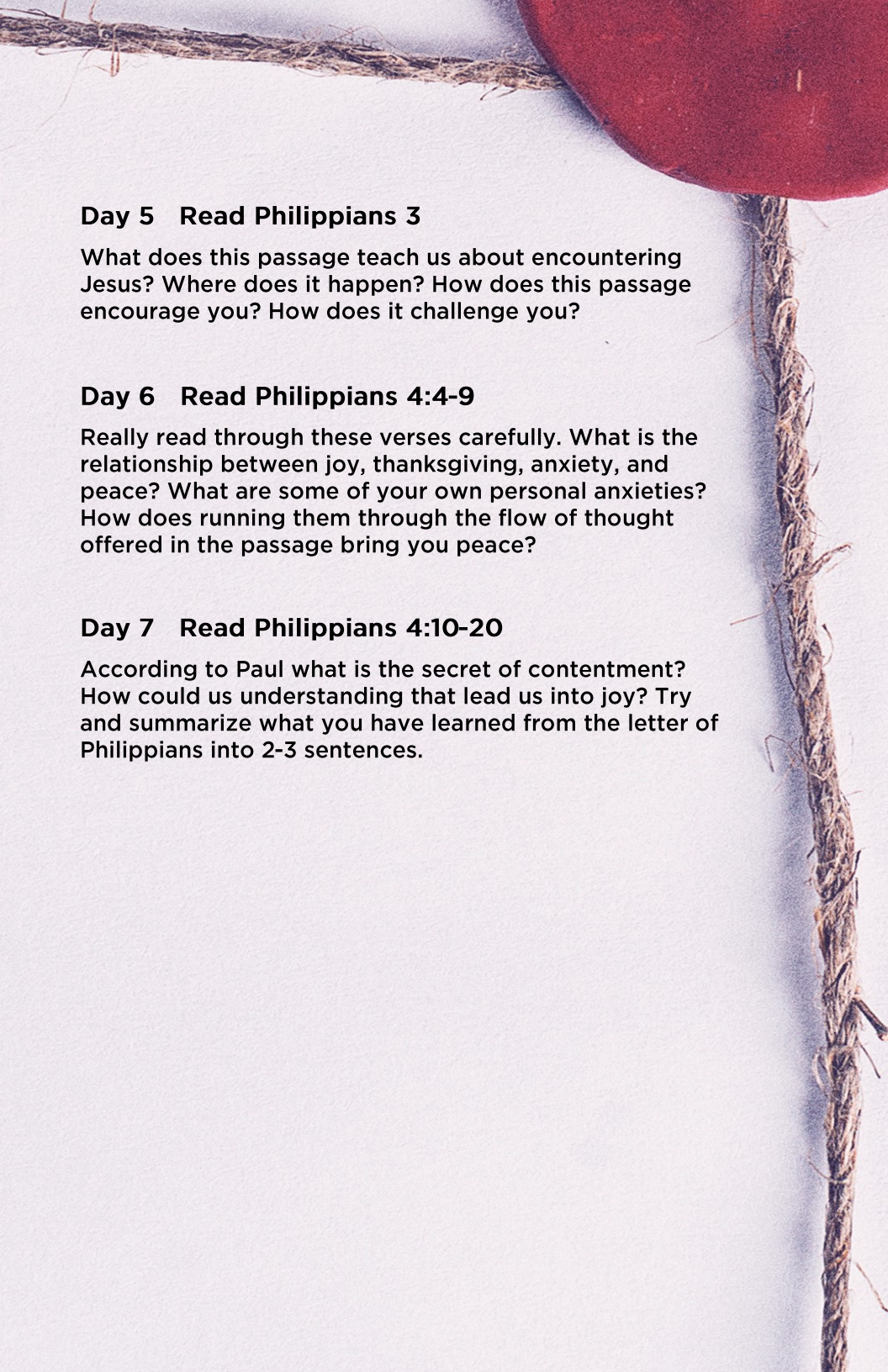
How does the backstory in Acts 16 amplify the passage from Philippians chapter 1? In Philippians 1:29 Paul says that it has been granted, or literally "gifted" to us to not only believe in Jesus, but suffer for him as well. What does that mean? How can suffering be a gift?

Day 3 Read Philippians 2:1-18

What does this passage teach us about who Jesus is? According to verse 6-11, how did Jesus become Lord? How is this supposed to influence the way we live—particularly with one another?

Day 4 Read Philippians 2:19-30

Identify some things you admire about both Timothy and Epaphroditus. Who has played a similar role in your life? Take some time today to share a word of appreciation to someone who has impacted your life in a similar way.



Day 5 Read Philippians 3

What does this passage teach us about encountering Jesus? Where does it happen? How does this passage encourage you? How does it challenge you?

Day 6 Read Philippians 4:4-9

Really read through these verses carefully. What is the relationship between joy, thanksgiving, anxiety, and peace? What are some of your own personal anxieties? How does running them through the flow of thought offered in the passage bring you peace?

Day 7 Read Philippians 4:10-20

According to Paul what is the secret of contentment? How could our understanding of that lead us into joy? Try and summarize what you have learned from the letter of Philippians into 2-3 sentences.