A LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS
LEADER GUIDE

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pens or markers
- Paper
- Envelopes

WHAT'S THE POINT?

This lesson is designed to give students a glimpse of Paul's insights and his ministry. Help students understand that to live is Christ, and to live for Christ means to share Christ with all who are around you and to encourage those who know Christ to do the same. This is also an opportunity to go through a book of the Bible as a group.

Start with the Word
Read the book of Philippians together as a group.

Verses to highlight along the way...

Chapter 1
Philippians 1:16
Philippians 1:29-30

Chapter 2
Philippians 2:5-11
Philippians 2:14-15

Chapter 3
Philippians 3:7-8
Philippians 3:13-14

Chapter 4
Philippians 4:4
Philippians 4:6-7
Philippians 4:13

GROUP ACTIVITY

Break up your students into groups of two or three. Assign each group a chapter of Philippians. Have them write a letter to "the Philippians." Allow each group to define who "the Philippians" are. It may be a school, a group of friends, a team, your youth group, or some other group of people. This is going to vary from group to group. Explain that Paul's letter to the Philippians was meant to encourage and inspire people toward following Christ daily. Encourage your students to look at what Paul wrote and then try to write a letter of their own.

Student Instructions

- As a group read your assigned chapter of Philippians
- Together pick out the highlights, key verses, key phrases, and other important ideas
- Put yourself in Paul's shoes and write a letter to "the Philippians"

- Your group can define who "the Philippians" are; it may be a school, a group of friends, a team, your youth group, or some other group of people
- Use the themes from your chapter to help you figure out what to write
- Make it personal and specific to your "Philippians"
- Write down the themes for each chapter on your student sheet

Main themes:
Chapter 1 – God is at work in our lives
Chapter 2 – Check your heart; check your attitude
Chapter 3 – Put the past behind you
Chapter 4 – Having a joyful attitude

? HOW DOES THIS APPLY?

- What are some of the main ideas that Paul was trying to communicate to the Philippians?
- Did you try to communicate the same ideas to your "Philippians"?
- Does Paul's letter encourage you in your walk with Jesus Christ?
- Do you think your letter could encourage someone in their walk with Christ?

TAKE-HOME CHALLENGE

Write a letter to someone speaking of the joy that Christ brings to your life and encouraging them in their walk with Christ, and then send it!