

THE WEEK AHEAD: Week 8



Paul ends his letter by speaking about contentment. The studies this week will remind us of some practical things we can do to be content.

Sunday

Read the passage that will be preached at the church service you attend. If English is your second language, read the passage in your own language and also in English.

On the other six days...

Day 1

Re-read **Philippians 4:10–23** and think about the answers you gave to the study questions on pages 33–36.

Memorize this week's memory verse:

**"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation."
Philippians 4:12**

Pray that you would learn to be "content in any and every situation".

Day 2

Read **Hebrews 4:14–16**.

This short passage gives us great confidence.

1 Why should we hold "firmly" to the faith we believe in (verse 14)?

2 What do you think are your particular weaknesses and temptations (verse 15)?

3 Jesus knows exactly what it is like to be tempted. But he never sinned. What should we do in times of weakness and temptation? (see verses 15–16)

4 How will God respond if we do this? (see verse 16)

Use your answers to these questions to help you pray.

Day 3

Read **1 Timothy 1:12–17**.

Paul wrote two letters to his younger colleague Timothy. Here Paul talks about his sense of unworthiness because he used to persecute Christians.

1 What does Paul thank Jesus for in verse 12?

2 What did Paul receive from Jesus, according to verse 14?

3 Why is the "saying" in verse 15 so important for Paul and for us?

4 How was Paul's life an example of God's patience? (see verses 13 and 16)

5 How is your life an example of God's patience to those who aren't yet Christians? (see verse 16)

6 In verse 12, Paul says that Jesus gave him strength. In what ways have you too received strength from Jesus?

Pray about your life as a Christian in the places where you work and live. Ask for God's strength to help you.

Day 4

Read **Ephesians 3:14–21**.

This prayer is right in the middle of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In it, he prays that they would have "power".

1 What is the first thing Paul prays for the Ephesians? (see verses 16–17a)

2 The Ephesians are already Christians, and therefore already have Christ living in them. So what does Paul mean when he prays that Christ would "dwell" in them?

3 What is the second thing Paul prays for the Ephesians? (see verses 17b–19)

4 Read verse 19. How can this "love" be known, but at the same time "surpass knowledge"?

5 What is it about the end of Paul's prayer that encourages us to pray? (see verse 20)

Using these verses, pray for yourself, and the others in your group, that you would grow in your knowledge of the love of Jesus.

Day 5

Re-read the Bible passages you have read over the past week. Choose a verse that you found particularly helpful, write it down in the space below and memorize it.

Day 6

*Now that you have finished **Discipleship Explored**, spend some time writing down the things you have learned. Pray that you would be able to put them into practice.*