



The church in Philippi is the first church on record that was started on a different continent! You can read about the roots of the church in Philippi in Acts 16. Paul help found the church and kept in close contact with them throughout his missionary journey. About a decade later he wrote them a letter of encouragement from a prison cell. Paul had been arrested in Jerusalem and was awaiting trial in Rome where he lived in his own rented house while chained to Roman guards. This is important to keep in mind because the words Paul writes don't sound like sentences of a dejected prisoner, they are quite the opposite. Paul writes as a joyful man sharing his joy with others!

1. The church in Philippi was started by Paul and his traveling companions. If you read **Acts 16** you will see that the church was comprised of a variety of a people. What do you love about the diversity of the local church and why?
2. Paul was a well-known leader in the church but introduced himself as a bondservant **Read Philippians 1:1-2**. While on earth, Jesus taught the disciples about serving others. **Read Mark 10:44-45**. What is one way you can serve others this week?
3. **Read Philippians 1:3-6**. Paul modeled an attitude of thankfulness, joy, and gospel partnership. Have you ever noticed that it's easier to complain than to be joyful? Go around the group and share something you're thankful for.
4. Paul had a great love for the church in Philippi. **Read Philippians 1:7-8**. Jesus taught that love would be a defining characteristic of His followers. **Read John 13:34-35**. How are you at loving others? Where do you struggle with loving others?
5. **Read John 3:16-17**. God sent His one and only Son because He loved the world. in **Matthew 9:35-38** we read that Jesus had compassion people. How can you grow in your capacity to love others as the Bible teaches?
6. Paul prayed for the church on a regular basis. **Read Philippians 1:9-11**. Jesus taught people how to pray in the Sermon on the Mount. **Read Matthew 6:5-14**. In **Psalms 5:3**, David encourages us to pray early in the morning. How is your prayer life helping your love to abound more and more?
7. Paul longs for the church to be filled with the fruit of righteousness. Read **Galatians 5:22-23** and talk about the fruit of the Spirit. In which of these fruits would you like to grow as you wait for the day of Christ to return?
8. Close your time in prayer by praying for one of Coastline's local outreach partners, My Baby's First Teacher.