

Genre: Epistles – Read like a letter.

**Epistles Reading Rules:** Read the entire epistle 2-3 times all the way through and answer the following questions.

1. Who wrote the epistle?

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Answer: Paul (Philippians 1:1)

2. To whom was it written?

Answer: Saints in Philippi (Philippians 1:1)

3. Why was it written or what issue or conflict caused the letter to be written?

Answer: Thank the saints and encourage unity. (Philippians 1:3-27)

4. What does the author say about the issue?

Answer: Press on to the upward call of Christ! (Philippians 3:12-14)

**READ** {Philippians 3:1-10} **Discovery:** Press on in pursuit of God's supernatural version of ourselves.

**REFLECT:** How badly do you want Jesus' righteousness (3:9), power (3:10) and fellowship (3:10)?

**RESPOND:** Forget what is behind and reach for what is ahead.

A - Forget those things that are behind. Philippians 3:7-8

Beware of negative friends:

Trash worldly idols:\_\_\_\_\_

B - <u>Reach</u> up to the call of Christ. *Philippians 3:12-14* 

(Pick one)

Memorize the Bible	Serve humbly
Live a consistent prayer life	Give generously
Be Obedience	Surrender completely
Confess of sin	

5. How does this epistle relate to and challenge us today?

Rock Church Devotional Readings November 22 - 28 The Royal: Making Sense of the Bible

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood" 1 Peter 2:9-10

Using the guidelines below, here is a daily Bible text for you to READ, REFLECT and RESPOND.

>> On the first two days (Monday and Tuesday) you will read the enitre letter to get the "big picture." Then, for the rest of the week, you will zero in on each individual chapter.

 MON - 1 Peter 1-3
 WED - 1 Peter 1

 TUE - 1 Peter 4-6
 THU - 1 Peter 2

 FRI – 1 Peter 3
 SUN – 1 Peter 5

 SAT – 1 Peter 4

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**Read** and discover what God communicated to the people at the time of the writing.

Read the text 2-3 times and identify either:

- 1. Who wrote the epistle?
- 2. To whom was it written?
- 3. Why was it written or what issue or conflict caused the letter to be written?
- 4. What does the author say about the issue?
- 5. How does it relate to and challenge us today?



**Reflect**, pray and determine what is God communicating to us in the present.

Write, in your own words, a 2-3 sentence prayer or revelation identifying how this letter written to a church in the first century has application for us today.



Respond and do something!

Do something by praying and deciding what God wants to do in and through you in the future. Identify the steps of faith you need to take in order to facilitate God's promises. What am I going to do to apply my faith to be more of who God wants me to be? Is there sin to repent of? Is there something you can praise God for? Is there someone you need to forgive, serve or speak to? How are you worshiping God in your life?

Further applications – Send a challenge to people in your acquaintance. Be bold in what the Lord is showing you as a step of faith. Use social media to spread the Word of God (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Blog, email, etc.).

Devotional necessities: A Bible, pen or pencil, notebook or journal, a quiet place, a regular time, a prayerful heart of faith

## BOOK SIX: LETTERS

## LETTERS: EPISTLES

{*Kingdom principles for everyday life*}

GENRE – Epistles – Read like a letter. READING RULES – Read the entire epistle 2-3 times and answer 5 questions:

- 1. Who wrote the epistle?
- 2. To whom was it written?
- 3. Why was it written or what issue or conflict caused the letter to be written?
- 4. What does the author say about the issue?
- 5. How does it relate to and challenge us today?