

Bible Expedition: “Journey to Philippi” Skits

Day 1

Characters:

- Claudius (or Claudia if female): Energetic, engaging leader who guides children in opening and closing group worship and skits, not referenced in Scripture.
- Timothy: Male helper of the Apostle Paul (<https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Timothy.html>)
- Epaphroditus: Male helper of the Apostle Paul (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Epaphroditus-in-the-Bible.html>)
- Sophie: Female character, not referenced by name in Scripture, but loosely adapted from Acts 16:16-18.

“Serving God and Serving Others”

Verse: Philippians 2:5-7 (ESV)

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Registration 6:15pm

Opening Group Worship: 6:30- 6:45pm

(Claudius) Hi everyone! Thank you for coming and welcome to the church of Philippi!

Our church was founded about 10 years ago, in the year AD 50, by the Apostle Paul. Since then, we have continued to grow and learn about living a life that pleases God. Currently, we are still praying for the Apostle Paul who is in prison for telling people about Jesus. We have also been praying for Epaphroditus and Timothy, who have been helping Paul.

Well today, I have great news! Epaphroditus and Timothy are actually here with us at the church of Philippi! Please help me welcome them now!

[Lead clapping and invite Timothy and Epaphroditus on stage]

(Timothy) Hey everyone. My name is Timothy and it is great to be back in Philippi. Paul wanted us to thank everyone again for the gift you all sent him.

Today we have a gift for you as well. We would like to give each of you a wristband that has an important verse on it. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This verse has helped me through some tough times.

(Epaphroditus) Thanks Timothy. Those bracelets are great reminders that it's Christ who empowers us to do anything of worth. Hi guys! My name is Epaphroditus. As some of you know, I got really sick while helping Paul. Sometimes life is difficult, but knowing that God loves you and strengthens you helps you through those hard times. We hope you enjoy our gift to you. It's great to be back in Philippi!

[Timothy and Epaphroditus exit stage]

(Claudius) Thank you guys. It's great to have you back in Philippi. We will make sure everyone here gets your gift today. Thanks again!

Well, one thing we enjoy here in Philippi is worshipping God through music. So, let's worship.

[Sing a worship song]

Well today, we have a special speaker named Sophie who would like to share her testimony. Please join me in welcoming my friend Sophie.

[Lead clapping and invite Sophie on stage]

(Sophie) Thank you Claudius. Hi everyone.

- Today, I would like to share with you how Jesus saved me.
- At a young age I was taken from my parents and forced to work very hard for people who didn't care about me.
- I was forced to do things that were wrong. My masters were mean. They told me to lie to people in order to make money, and every time I lied I felt guilty and dirty.
- I was controlled by evil thoughts. My head was filled with evil. I was filled with anger and bitterness, and I lived like that for years. It was a horrible time. I felt like there was no hope.

- Then one day I heard a man named Paul speaking. He was telling people that God loved them. He said Jesus was God's Son and that Jesus died for them. He told people that by believing in Jesus, they could be saved from the penalty of their sins, made right with God, and be with Him in heaven. He said Jesus was now his master and that Jesus is a good master.
- At first, I didn't believe Paul. I thought that if God loved people then why was I held captive? Was there any such thing as a good master?
- I thought Paul was a liar. What he said sounded too good to be true, so I mocked him and called him all kinds of bad names. I followed him for days yelling at him and trying to get him to leave Philippi.
- Paul ignored me at first, but after a few days, I must have really been getting on his nerves because he confronted me. But he didn't shout at me to stop yelling like you would imagine. He turned and commanded the spirit in me to come out in the name of Jesus Christ.
- It was a miracle. Instantly, I felt like a huge burden was lifted. I didn't have bad thoughts and anger. I was free for the first time. I had been in bondage my whole life and in an instant, I was free. I knew this power came from God. Years of guilt and thoughts that I could never get rid of on my own were gone in an instant.
- Jesus healed me! I dropped to my knees and cried. I realized what Paul had been saying is true. Jesus loves. Jesus forgives. Jesus saves. Jesus is a good master. At that moment, I believed in Jesus Christ as my new master.
- It has been over ten years since that day and I am still following God. I am no longer in bondage to sin. I am completely free.
- Today, I want to encourage each of you. Some of you are living to serve things in this world. You may want to have a bunch of friends or to become really wealthy. You may want to live for whatever feels good. But I can tell you, Jesus is better than anything this world has to offer.

(Claudius). Thank you Sophie. You know, that's something we can all remember, and that's a good question for us to ask ourselves, "Who or what are we serving with our life?"

What do you say we sing another song and then you can go with your group leaders to explore Philippi?

[Lead group in a song]

Rotations (Bible Lesson/Games/Crafts & Snacks): 6:50-8pm

Rotation 1: 6:50- 7:10; Rotation 2: 7:15-7:35; Rotation 3: 7:40-8:00

Time	Entering K-1	Entering 2-3	Entering 4 -6
6:15-6:30	-----Registration-----		
6:30-6:45	-----Opening Group Worship-----		
6:50- 7:10	Bible Lesson	Games	Crafts/Snacks
7:15-7:35	Games	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson
7:40-8:00	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson	Games
8:05-8:15	-----Closing Group Worship-----		
8:15-8:30	-----Checkout-----		

- Crafts (Lydia’s Crafts and Co)/Snack: Serving God by serving others; Making crafts for Operation Christmas Child (necklaces and bracelets); Eat a Philippians Sugar Cookie.
- Games (Sophie’s Treasure Hunt): Game to find items to send to Operation Christmas Child; they can keep any candy they find. Everyone receives a Philippians 4:13 wristband.
- Bible Lesson: Servant hood, examples of servants in Philippians, Christ: the greatest Servant

Closing Group Worship: 8:05- 8:15pm

(Claudius) Welcome back everyone. I hope everyone enjoyed their rotations and activities. Before we leave I would like to encourage you with our verse for today.

Philippians 2:5-7; “⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”

Everyone can be a servant of Jesus, because Jesus left Heaven to become a servant for us!

Let’s praise God through singing a few more songs before we finish tonight!

[Lead group in singing 2-3 songs]

Sign out: 8:20 – 8:30pm

Day 2

Characters:

- Claudius (or Claudia if female): Energetic, engaging leader who guides children in opening and closing group worship and skits, not referenced in Scripture.
- Timothy: Male helper of the Apostle Paul (<https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Timothy.html>)
- Epaphroditus: Male helper of the Apostle Paul (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Epaphroditus-in-the-Bible.html>)
- Euodia: Female character referenced in Philippians 4:2-3. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Euodia-and-Syntyche.html>)
- Syntyche: Female character referenced in Philippians 4:2-3. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Euodia-and-Syntyche.html>)
- Lydia: Female character referenced in Acts 16. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Lydia-in-the-Bible.html>)

“Unity in Christ”

Philippians 1:27 (ESV) “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,...”

Registration 6:15pm

Opening Group Worship: 6:30- 6:45pm

[Claudius, Timothy and Epaphroditus enter stage.]

(Claudius) Welcome back to day two of Journey to Philippi everyone! We are excited to be here again with you. Raise your hands if you are excited to be here. (option: Claudius can lead the group in a WAVE)

(Claudius) Well today, we are going to talk about unity.

[Interrupted by loud arguing off stage or behind children]

(Claudius) What is that noise?

[Timothy and Epaphroditus put their face their hands and shake their heads]

(Timothy) Oh no!!!

(Claudius) What is it?

(Epaphroditus) EUODIA AND SYNTYCHE!!

(Claudius) Oh no!!!

[Euodia and Syntyche enter stage with a large, gaudy church lady hat covered in bright colored cloth. Both are animated and angry.]

(Euodia) Claudius! We have a big problem. We were in the marketplace and I found this beautiful hat.

(Syntyche) No Claudius. I found the hat first. As I was paying for it Euodia took it and said it was hers.

(Euodia) Syntyche is lying!!

(Claudius) Ladies please. You are sisters but you argue about everything, every day!! It gives us all a headache. And the hat! Well, look at it. It's hideous!

(Claudius) *[looks toward the kids]* What do you all think guys? Do you like the hat?

[Allow children to respond]

(Euodia) *[Respond in sarcastic disgust]* Well I don't care. I saw the hat first.

(Syntyche) No. I saw the hat first.

[Euodia and Syntyche leave the stage arguing and struggling over the hat]

(Claudius) Timothy and Epaphroditus, could you help those two work this out before they cause any more trouble?

[Timothy and Epaphroditus exit stage, following Euodia and Syntyche]

(Claudius) Well as I was saying. Today we are going to talk about unity and it looks like we have some work to do. We are going to need God to help us with Euodia and Syntyche. Let's worship God through a song.

[Lead group in signing]

(Claudius) You guys sound great! Today we have a special guest named Lydia who is going to share her story. Please help me welcome Lydia to Philippi.

[Lead clapping and invite Lydia on stage]

(Lydia)

- Thank you all for coming to my craft shop yesterday. You all did such a great job making crafts for others. Children around the world are going to be so happy when they see your gift.
- Well, I wanted to share my story with you. Hopefully, you won't make some of the same mistakes I made earlier in my life.
- You see, I grew up knowing about God but I never had a relationship with God. God was not real to me.
- I was hard working and did really well in business making beautiful purple clothes and crafts.
- I soon became very wealthy and bought multiple houses.
- But even though I had accomplished so much, I still felt like something was missing.
- I was empty inside. I was lonely. I was so proud that I wouldn't let others help me. I didn't care about other people.
- In spite of myself, God gave me a desire to learn about Him. So, I started studying the Hebrew scriptures.
- That's when I met Paul. He met me when I was reading the Scriptures.
- He helped me to understand what they meant.
- He told me that my selfish sins offended and separated me from God. He told me about a man named Jesus, who lived a perfect life and then died for my sins. Jesus paid the penalty for my sins by dying on a cross, and three days later He rose from the grave. When I understood this, I believed in Jesus. My life has never been the same.
- Jesus gave me a new purpose. I no longer work just to make more money and buy more houses. I now live to serve Jesus and to help others. God has helped me realize that I am an important part of the church in Philippi. Everyone is given a gift from God. In order for our church to work the way God planned, we need to help each other by using our gifts.

[Lydia exits stage]

(Claudius) Thank you, Lydia. Let's worship with another song before you go with your group leaders.

[Lead group in song]

Rotation/Teaching: 6:50-8pm

Rotation 1: 6:50- 7:10; Rotation 2: 7:15-7:35; Rotation 3: 7:40-8:00

Time	Entering K-1	Entering 2-3	Entering 4 -6
6:15-6:30	-----Registration-----		
6:30-6:45	-----Opening Group Worship-----		
6:50- 7:10	Bible Lesson	Games	Crafts/Snacks
7:15-7:35	Games	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson
7:40-8:00	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson	Games
8:05-8:15	-----Closing Group Worship-----		
8:15-8:30	-----Checkout-----		

- Crafts (Lydia’s Crafts and Co)/Snack: coming together to make something (each group completes part of a project that requires everyone working together in order to finish)
- Games (“Supply Run” bringing supplies to Paul in prison): Unity Team Building game
- Bible Lesson: Unity

Closing Group Worship: 8:05- 8:15pm

(Claudius) Welcome back everyone, I hope you enjoyed the teaching and activities. Timothy, Epaphroditus, Lydia and I have been speaking to Euodia and Syntyche and they have something they would like to share with you.

(Euodia) Hey everyone. I wanted to apologize for arguing earlier.

(Syntyche) Me too. We were being very selfish.

(Euodia) We learned a verse today that encouraged us. Philippians 1:27 says “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.” It then says, “standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel...”

(Syntyche) Euodia and I are very different, but we learned today that those differences can make us stronger. We can serve Jesus better when we work together.

(Claudius) Thank you for sharing. That's very true. God is pleased when we work together in unity.

Let's close tonight with a couple worship songs together!

[Lead group in singing 2-3 songs]

Sign out: 8:20 – 8:30pm

Day 3

Characters:

- Claudius (or Claudia if female): Energetic, engaging leader who guides children in opening and closing group worship and skits, not referenced in Scripture.
- Thaddeus: Male character. Not named, but refers to the Philippian Jailer in Acts 16:25-40.

“True Freedom through Faith in Christ”

Breakfast/Devotion time

Registration: 9:45- 10:00am

Opening Group Worship: 10:15- 10:30am

(Claudius) Good morning and welcome to our third and final day together.

Today we have a very special guest, named Thaddeus. He works here at the jail in Philippi and he’s going to share his amazing story. Please help me welcome Thaddeus!

[Lead clapping and invite Thaddeus on stage]

(Thaddeus) Hi everyone! My name is Thaddeus, but you can call me Thad.

- I am the chief Jailer for the city of Philippi. Basically, my job is to keep prisoners in jail and make sure they don’t escape. Today I am going to talk about what it means to be free in Jesus Christ.
- I was once a very proud man. I grew up as a Roman citizen and was taught to be loyal to my country. I worked very hard for a long time and served my country well. I desired to become powerful. I wanted to be recognized as an important leader.
- I also didn’t care about other people. All I cared about was myself. I always had to be in control. I would often hurt prisoners just to be mean and show them I was in charge. I would laugh at them because they were stuck in prison chains. However, I didn’t realize I was stuck too. I was controlled by my desires. I was living for money, power, honor and my selfish feelings. I was a slave to the desires of this world.
- However, everything changed after I met a certain prisoner named Paul. Paul was different from other prisoners. For one, he hadn’t committed a

crime. And unlike other prisoners, Paul wasn't afraid of me even though I could make his life miserable. But what really puzzled me was that Paul was joyful. Here was a man who was wrongfully imprisoned, hungry and cold. Yet he was full of joy. Instead of feeling bad for himself, he felt bad for me. He said if I died without trusting in Jesus Christ, I would have to pay the penalty for my sins by spending eternity in hell. He told me that his God had power. I kept telling myself that Paul was just a crazy man. But something inside told me otherwise.

- That night there was a great earthquake like I had never experienced before. I awoke and to my dismay, all the prison doors were open. Normally, prisoners flee when prison doors are opened. I thought everyone had fled. If everyone escaped I could be blamed and put in prison myself. For a moment, I thought my life was over.
- Just when I feared the worst, I heard a voice. You know who it was? It was Paul! He was still there! He had not tried to escape. And the other prisoners were there too!
- I soon realized Paul's God had caused the earthquake and opened all the prison doors. I wanted to know this God. I begged Paul and asked him how I could be saved. He told me to "believe" in Jesus Christ.
- I now believe in Jesus and I'm happy to say, my whole family believes in Jesus too. We are free from the power of sin. We are free from the lies in this world. We are free to follow Jesus with our whole heart. I want to encourage you as well. Don't live for this world. Live for Jesus and you will find true freedom.

(Claudius). Thank you, Thad.

What Thad said is very true. Only Jesus can give us true freedom.

Let's sing and praise God with a couple of songs before we separate into our groups.

[Lead group in singing worship songs]

Rotations/teaching: 10:20 – 11:30am

Rotation 1: 10:20-10:40; Rotation 2: 10:45-11:05; Rotation 3: 11:10-11:30

Time	Entering K-1	Entering 2-3	Entering 4 -6
9:45-10:00	-----Registration-----		
10:00-10:15	-----Opening Group Worship-----		
10:20- 10:40	Bible Lesson	Games	Crafts/Snacks
10:45-11:05	Games	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson
11:10-11:30	Crafts/Snacks	Bible Lesson	Games
11:35-11:45	-----Closing Group Worship-----		
11:45-12:00	-----Checkout-----		

- Crafts (Lydia’s Crafts and Co)/Snack: theme Faith/Freedom
- Games (Break Free): Prison-themed escape room, using bible and other clues to free the prisoner and your group.
- Bible Lesson: Real freedom is found only in Christ. Gospel message.

Closing Group Worship: 11:35- 11:45am

(Claudius) Welcome back everyone for our final closing Group Worship.

[Look sad as kids sound disappointed but quickly cheer up]

I’m sorry to see VBS end this year as well, but it’s been awesome seeing God at work here this weekend. Thank you all for coming and we hope to see you at church tomorrow!

Before we close with a couple of songs, I want to ask each of you two favors.

First, if God has used this event to encourage you, would you let your leaders and your parents know. Perhaps you believed in Jesus or perhaps you were challenged to be a better servant. We would love to hear what God has done.

Second, if you have any questions about anything you heard this weekend, please let one of the leaders here know.

Okay, let’s worship and praise God:

[Sing 2-3 worship songs]

Sign out: 12:00 noon