



THE LORD IS NEAR

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-5

GETTING STARTED

- Describe a time when you felt "near" to God. What were the circumstances? Why did you feel near to him and what did you notice about yourself when he was near? Is God ever not near?

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Before you begin: *Open with prayer and spend a minute or two in silence before God. Have multiple people ask the Holy Spirit to enter into your time together and illuminate your hearts and minds to scripture.*

- Have someone read the passage aloud and note any observations, questions, and exciting insights you found while reading through the text to share with the group. What jumped out at you? What was something you noticed now that you didn't see before?
- What does Paul mean when he describes the Philippians as his "joy and his crown?"
- How do we stand firm in the Lord?
- In verse 3 the word for "companion" literally means "yokemate" in greek. What do you think Paul is suggesting here in regard to living in harmony?
- What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? Why does Paul tell the Philippians to rejoice here after what he says in verse 3?

WRAPPING UP

- Is God ever not near? Why does Paul say "The Lord is near?"
- What does it look like to let your gentle spirit be known to all men? How does this call us to live with other people?