



# 4

## Leader Guide

### Legacy

*November 21, 2021*

## Main Passage: Philippians 4:15-23

### Theological Theme

As Paul closed his letter to the Philippians, he thanked them for their provision for him in his trouble. This provision was the providence of God by means of the Philippian church. Just as God had provided for Paul through them, God would also provide for their needs.

### Introduction

- ❓ Can you think of a time when you were overcome with worry or grief? What happened?
- ❓ What are some ways, big or small, that you have seen yourself prioritize your own life over others?

To close his letter to them, Paul gave thanks to the Philippians for a gift (most likely monetary) they sent to him through their messenger Epaphroditus. The note of appreciation appears in three places: in verse 10 Paul spoke of his great joy because of the Philippians' expression of concern for him; in verse 14 he told them they "did well by" helping him in his affliction; and in verse 18 he used both financial and cultic metaphors to describe the immense value of their gift to him.

### 1. Trouble is Inevitable (Philippians 4:15)

Paul made it clear in chapter 4 that he was in need. He was careful not to complain and sought to avoid giving the impression that he wanted pity. He certainly did not. But neither did he hide the fact that he had trouble, he lacked, and he was suffering. In verse 15, he reiterated this fact by saying, "no church shared with me." Paul depended on the kindness and generosity of churches to help him continue his

missionary work. There were times when he had very little. Here we have an important principle connected to our earthly sojourn: all of humanity, both the saved and unsaved, must shoulder the repercussions of living in a marred creation.

## 2. Sharing Burdens (Philippians 4:16-18)

The Philippians' gift was an act of worship because it was given by faith in Christ for the purposes of the kingdom. Paul was the steward who would be managing it, but the gift was safeguarded in the coffers of the King.

## 3. God Supplies (Philippians 4:19-23)

Paul wanted the Philippians to understand two fundamental lessons of the Christian life. In verse 13, he explained that a Christian's contentedness is not found in favorable circumstances, but in the Rock of Ages. In verse 19, he explained that a Christian may leave the needs of their present circumstances in the hands of God for He has promised to give His children what they need.

## Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
  
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
  
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
  
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
  
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
  
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
  
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?