

— WEEKLY —
**BIBLE
STUDY**
NOTES

Reflection and Discussion

Read through [Philippians 4:1–9](#), which will be the focus of this week’s study. Then review the following questions concerning this section of the book of Philippians and write your own responses. (For further background, see the ESV Study Bible, pages 2286–2287, available online at www.esvbible.org).

1. [Philippians 4:1](#) is a transitional sentence in that it looks back to what came before and forward to what’s ahead. Which word in [Philippians 4:1](#) points us backward? Which word points us forward? Also, how does Paul’s call to “stand firm” ([Phil. 4:1](#)) relate thematically to what came before ([Phil. 3:17–21](#)) and what comes after ([Phil. 4:2–9](#))?

2. Looking through the whole of this section ([Phil. 4:1–9](#)), which phrases can be classified as *command/exhortation*? Which phrases can be classified as *promise/basis*?

3. Paul addresses the church with six different affectionate terms in [Philippians 4:1](#). Note them. Why do you think Paul stresses this so? Do you see any other warm, personal terms in [Philippians 4:2–3](#)?

4. We don’t know the nature or details of the disagreement between the two ladies Paul addresses in [Philippians 4:2–3](#), but his plea to “agree in the Lord” should remind us that unity (or a lack thereof) has been no

— WEEKLY —
**BIBLE
STUDY**
NOTES

small concern in Philippians. In fact, the same Greek phrase is used in [Philippians 4:2](#) (“agree”) and [Philippians 2:2](#) (“the same mind”). What other verses in [Philippians 1–3](#) have touched on the theme of unity?

5. Paul specifies the kind of joy he is calling the church to: it is “in the Lord” ([Phil. 4:4](#)). What does it mean to rejoice “in the Lord”?

6. [Philippians 4:6](#) issues one negative command (what not to do) and one positive command (what to do). What are they, and how do they relate to each other?
