EDUCATION

Matt Chandler To Live Is Christ Study Guide

Published: November 20, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction: Finding Purpose in a Life-Centered on Christ

In a world that often feels fragmented and uncertain, the question of purpose weighs heavily on many hearts. For believers and seekers alike, the Apostle Paul's declaration in Philippians 1:21—"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"—offers a radical, countercultural answer. Yet, understanding how to apply this profound truth to daily life can be challenging. This is where the **Matt Chandler To Live Is Christ Study Guide** becomes an invaluable resource. This study guide, designed to accompany Chandler's teaching series on the book of Philippians, provides a structured, insightful, and deeply practical pathway into embracing a life wholly surrendered to Jesus. In this article, we will explore the core themes of this study guide, its structure, and why it has become a transformative tool for small groups, Bible studies, and individual believers seeking to live with eternal significance.

Who Is Matt Chandler and Why This Study Matters

A Voice of Theological Depth and Pastoral Warmth

Matt Chandler is the lead pastor of The Village Church in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the president of the Acts 29 Network. Known for his passionate, expository preaching and his willingness to address difficult topics with grace and truth, Chandler has a unique ability to make deep theological concepts accessible and applicable. His teaching series on Philippians, titled "To Live Is Christ," is a masterclass in understanding the joy, humility, and purpose that flow from a life centered on the gospel. The companion study guide distills this rich teaching into a format that encourages reflection, discussion, and personal application.

The Central Thesis: Christ as the Center of All Things

The **Matt Chandler To Live Is Christ Study Guide** is built on the foundational truth that Jesus Christ is not merely a part of the Christian life—He is the entirety of it. Chandler unpacks how Paul, writing from a Roman prison, models a perspective that transcends circumstances. Whether in abundance or need, freedom or chains, Paul's identity and joy are rooted in Christ alone. This study challenges participants to ask the same question: Is Christ truly the center of my life, or have I allowed other things—comfort, reputation, relationships, or success—to take His place?

An In-Depth Look at the Study Guide's Structure

Session Breakdown and Key Themes

The study guide is typically divided into several sessions, each corresponding to a section of Philippians. While the exact number of sessions can vary by edition, the core themes remain consistent. Let us walk through some of the key segments you can expect to encounter.

The opening session sets the stage by examining Paul's joyful greeting and thanksgiving for the Philippian church. Chandler highlights that Christian joy is not dependent on happy circumstances but on the unchanging reality of the gospel. Participants are prompted to reflect on the sources of their own joy and to consider how they can cultivate a deeper sense of gratitude for God's work in their lives and in the lives of others. The study guide uses questions like, "What are the primary sources of your joy, and how do they measure up against the gospel?"

Perhaps the most theologically rich portion of the study centers on Philippians 2, where Paul presents the Kenosis—the self-emptying of Christ. Chandler masterfully explains how Jesus, though fully God, did not cling to His divine privileges but humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross. This session challenges readers to adopt the same mindset of humility and service. The study guide encourages practical steps toward putting others' interests above our own, directly confronting the pride and selfishness that so easily entangle us. Reflection questions often include identifying areas where we are tempted to "look out for number one" and how we can model Christ's servant heart in our families, workplaces, and churches.

In this session, Chandler addresses the tension between the "already" and the "not yet" of the Christian life. Paul, in Philippians 3, speaks of forgetting what lies behind and straining forward toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. The study guide unpacks what it means to live with holy ambition, not for worldly recognition, but for the approval of God. It tackles the difficult topic of suffering, showing how even pain and loss can be used by God to conform us to the image of His Son. Participants are encouraged to identify any "weights" or lingering sins that are hindering their spiritual progress.

The final sessions often focus on the antidote to anxiety: prayer saturated with thanksgiving. Chandler dives deep into Philippians 4, where Paul calls believers to rejoice in the Lord always and to present their requests to God. The result, Paul promises, is a peace that transcends human understanding, a peace that guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. This session is incredibly practical, offering tangible strategies for combating worry and cultivating a spirit of contentment. The study guide frequently returns to Paul's declaration, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me," reminding readers that true strength comes not from self-effort but from Christ's sustaining power.

The Role of Discussion Questions and Personal Application

A hallmark of the **Matt Chandler To Live Is Christ Study Guide** is its emphasis on application. Each session includes a robust set of discussion questions designed to move participants from intellectual understanding to heart-level transformation. These are not simple fill-in-the-blank exercises but probing inquiries that invite vulnerability and honesty. For example, a question might ask, "In what specific area of your life are you struggling to believe that Christ is enough?" By fostering an environment of authentic sharing, the study guide helps small groups grow in community and accountability.

Additionally, every session includes a section for personal reflection and prayer. This allows individuals to journal their thoughts, record what the Holy Spirit is teaching them, and commit to specific action steps. This combination of group discussion and private reflection makes the study guide a versatile tool for both corporate and individual use.

Why This Study Guide Stands Out Among Bible Studies

Theological Rigor Meets Everyday Life

Many Bible studies fall into one of two camps: they are either overly academic and difficult to grasp, or they are shallow and lack substantive biblical teaching. The **Matt Chandler To Live Is Christ Study Guide** beautifully bridges this gap. Chandler does not dumb down the deep theological truths of Philippians, but he also does not leave them floating in abstract theory. He consistently brings the text down to earth, showing how the doctrine of Christ's humility directly impacts how we speak to our spouse, how we respond to a difficult coworker, or how we handle financial pressure.

Focus on the Gospel, Not Self-Help

In an age where many Christian resources can veer into moralistic therapeutic deism, Chandler's study guide

remains fiercely gospel-centered. The ultimate goal is not to make you a better version of yourself—it is to make you more like Christ. The study does not offer a five-step plan for a happier life; instead, it points you again and again to the finished work of Jesus. The emphasis is on grace, not performance. This is profoundly freeing for believers who are weary of trying to earn God's favor through religious activity.

Ideal for Small Groups and Personal Devotion

Whether you are leading a small group of seasoned believers or gathering a few friends who are new to the faith, this study guide is remarkably adaptable. The questions are designed to stimulate conversation without being overly intimidating. Leaders will appreciate the clear structure and the theological depth that provides ample material for discussion. For individuals, the guide works wonderfully as a companion for daily quiet time, allowing for a slow, meditative walk through one of the most beloved books of the Bible.

Integrating the Study Into Your Life and Community

Practical Tips for Group Leaders

If you are planning to lead a group through the **Matt Chandler To Live Is Christ Study Guide**, preparation is key. Before each session, spend time reading the corresponding passage in Philippians and watching Chandler's teaching video (if available). Pray for your group members and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussions. During the meeting, resist the urge to give all the answers. Create a safe space where participants feel comfortable sharing their struggles and doubts. The goal is not to finish the lesson on time but to foster genuine spiritual growth. Encourage members to complete the personal reflection sections between meetings to deepen their engagement.

Making It Personal: Applying the Truths Daily

The true measure of any study guide is not how much you learn but how much you live out what you have learned. As you journey through this study, consider keeping a journal specifically for recording insights and prayers. Memorize key verses from Philippians, such as Philippians 1:6 ("He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion") or Philippians 4:13. Share what you are learning with a friend or family member, even if they are not in the study with you. The more you verbalize the truths of the gospel, the more they will take root in your heart.

Common Questions About the Study Guide

Many people considering this resource have a few common questions. Let us address them briefly.

- Do I need to watch the video series to use the study guide? While the study guide is designed to complement Chandler's video teaching, it can also be used independently. The content is rich enough to stand on its own, though the videos add an extra layer of depth and dynamic teaching.
- How long does the study take? Most versions of the study guide are structured for 6 to 8 sessions, making it ideal for a semester-long small group or a concentrated two-month personal study.
- Is this study suitable for new believers? Absolutely. While the theology is deep, Chandler's communication style is accessible. New believers will be challenged and encouraged, and mature Christians will find fresh insights that reignite their love for the gospel.

Conclusion: Embracing the Life That Is Truly Life

The **Matt Chandler To Live Is Christ Study Guide** is far more than a workbook—it is an invitation. It invites you to step away from the frantic pursuit of worldly meaning and to find your identity, joy, and purpose in the only One who can truly satisfy. Through a careful examination of Paul's letter to the Philippians, Chandler guides readers toward a radical reorientation of life around the person and work of Jesus Christ. The study challenges us to let go of our

pride, our anxieties, and our self-centered ambitions, and to embrace the humble, joyful, and others-focused life that God has called us to live.

If you are weary of shallow spirituality and are longing for a study that will dig deep into the Word while simultaneously transforming your daily walk, this guide is for you. Gather a few friends, pick up a copy of the **Matt Chandler To Live Is Christ Study Guide**, and prepare to have your heart recalibrated by the gospel. As you do, you may just find yourself echoing Paul's own words with genuine conviction: "For to me, to live is Christ." And in that declaration, you will discover the fullness of life that Christ Himself promised—life that is abundant, joyful, and eternal.

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