



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PHILIPPIANS: RESURRECTED LIFE

Shine Like Stars

Philippians 2:12-20

1. Take a moment and read our scripture for the week. **Philippians 2:12-18** - **12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. 14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. 17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.** What immediately grabs you from the scripture?

What from the scripture is especially relevant to you in your current season of life?

2. Paul gives us an urgent command in verse 12. **Philippians 2:12 - Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.** Pause momentarily and think about what it means to obey in someone's presence or absence. My children were much more likely to obey in my presence. Discuss this briefly with your group.

The phrase “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling” is a strong command to keep growing. “To work out,” in this case, means to continue to learn and understand your salvation so that you can live it out. The phrase “fear and trembling” demonstrates how important this truly is. Basically, Paul is saying in the strongest terms possible that you need to keep learning and understanding your salvation so that it directly affects how you live. The fear and trembling are not a fear of losing your relationship with God or being punished; the fear is about missing incredible opportunities and missing out on living a resurrected life with all its joys and significance. Take a moment and discuss if you are continuing to learn and grow and if your faith in Christ directly affects how you live.

3. The next verse demonstrates why it is so important. **13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.** God has the power to change what you want to do, your will, and what you are doing. In fact, this is His plan that you might fulfill his good purpose. Let's examine verse 13 in two other translations to fully understand this verse. **(CEV) 13 God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey him. (NLT) 13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.** Take a moment to process verse 13 with your group.

So, we can understand that our part is to keep learning and acquiring a more profound understanding to live out our faith; at the same time, God is working in us to change our desires and actions so that we can live our faith. What do you think about this? Have you ever seen this happen in your life? If so, discuss it with your group.

4. Focus on verses 14-16 for a moment. **14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life.** Take a moment to paraphrase or put these verses in your own words.

To grumble and argue means to complain. Specifically, it references continually complaining, finding fault, constantly being discontented, arguing, and choosing negativity. Do you know anyone like that? Paul says, If you don't argue or complain, you will shine like stars in the dark night of this perverse culture. Is this difficult for you? Using the context of this passage, how do you think people grow out of negativity?

5. You should not be surprised that Paul ends this passage again by reminding us to choose joy, the opposite of negativity. **17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.** How do you personally choose joy?